Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-046 *10 March 1989*

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Cuba

'Resounding Victory' at Geneva Meeting Reported

PA1003123789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0013 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Report by Radio Havana Correspondent in Geneva Pedro Martinez Pires—passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] For the third time in the last 3 years, Cuba has defeated U.S. plans to put our country in the defendant's seat. A draft resolution presented by four Latin American countries—Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Peru—was approved by an overwhelming majority, while the draft presented by the United States and supported by Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Morroco was defeated.

We interviewed Raul Roa Kouri, chief of the Cuban delegation to this 45th session of the UN Human Rights Commission:

[Reporter] "What does this Cuban victory represent?

[Roa Kouri] "This represents a new victory for the Cuban Revolution. The prestige of the commander in chief, the prestige of the Cuban Revolution, have prevailed once again in Geneva for a third consecutive time, as comrade Martinez Pires said, and we achieved a resounding victory. Not only has the Latin American countries' resolution been approved by an ample majority—that is, by 32 to 1, with 10 abstentions; 43 members make an absolute majority—but we defeated the Yankee charges with a motion that also carried an ample majority. With this, we have defeated U.S. attempts to place Cuba on the defendant's seat at this Human Rights Commission meeting for the third consecutive time. We will continue defeating the United States every time it tries to do this."

You have just heard Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri in special statements made right after Cuba's victory tonight here in Geneva. We must point out that this is a victory not only for Cuba but, naturally, also for Latin America, which has defeated the U.S. plans, just as it did last year.

It is also a victory for the Third World, and, naturally, of truth over U.S. lies. We must admit that for the first time, protocol was broken in Plenary Session Hall No 17 of this Human Rights Commission, because when the voting took place and it became clear that the majority favored the Latin American resolution, some of the delegates and journalists applauded the decision of the Human Rights Commission.

This has been a test of how far the power of a great country, such as the United States, has not been able to go to subjugate a small nation like Cuba when it has truth on its side. We now have statements by Carlos Lechuga, Cuba's permanent ambassador to Geneva:

[Reporter] "What does this victory represent? What does this third defeat for the United States represent here in Geneva?

[Lechuga] "This means that morals and principles have more strength than blackmail and threats. All this discussion in the Human Rights Commission has been a shameful process, inasmuch as the United States has exerted all sorts of pressure to defeat Cuba and to put Cuba on the defendant's seat as the result of a number of lies. It has been proven tonight that the United States is the liar. We have received here not only the warmth of all the Cuban comrades who are in Geneva—the journalists, the comrade diplomats—but also of the many people who realized the tremendous significance of this U.S. defeat and this Cuban victory. This is not just Cuba's victory; it is the victory of all of the Third World countries, since Cuba has represented and defended here the principles of all the Third World countries."

Havana Reports 'Victory'

FL1003023989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Cuba obtained a resounding victory in Geneva today and, at the same time, the United States resigned itself with a shameful defeat after the draft on the report of the human rights commission that visited Cuba submitted by the Latin American group was approved by a wide majority. As the saying goes: Things have a way of turning out just the way you don't want them to. [Literally, he who doesn't like soup, gets three bowls]. In this case, there were three bowls.

[Begin recording] [Special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez] Cuba has defeated for the third time in the last 3 years the U.S. attempts of putting our country in the defendant's stand. A draft resolution submitted by four Latin American countries— Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Peru—was approved by a very wide margin. At the same time, the draft submitted by the United States with the support of the UK, Netherlands, and Morocco, was defeated.

Raul Roa Kouri, head of the Cuban delegation to this 45th session, has special remarks for NTV [name of newscast]. Roa, what does this Cuban triumph represent?

[Roa Kouri] This is, no more and no less, a new victory for the Cuban Revolution. The prestige of the commander in chief and the prestige of the Cuban Revolution have prevailed once more in Geneva, for the third consecutive time, and achieved a resounding triumph. Not only has the Latin American countries' resolution draft been approved by an ample majority—that is, 32

votes to 1, and 10 abstentions.... [changes thought] This is how the draft was approved, by a enormous majority. There are 43 members. The absolute majority of the members of this commission voted in favor of the Latin American draft. Later, we took out of circulation once more the Yankee attempts with a procedural motion which also captured a large majority in the room.

With this, we have defeated for a third consecutive time the attempts made by the United States to put Cuba in the defendant's stand in this Human Rights Commission. We will continue to defeat them every time they attempt to do this.

[Martinez Pirez] It has to be noted that this is not only Cuba's triumph but it is also, naturally, a Latin American triumph because it defeated the U.S., as it did last year. It is also a triumph for the Third World and, naturally, it is a triumph for the truth against the U.S. lie.

It has to be noted that protocol was broken for the first time in Plenary Session Hall No 17 of the Human Rights Commission. When the vote took place and the absolute majority in favor of the draft presented by Latin America began to be clear, some of the delegates and reporters applauded the decision taken by the UN Human Rights Commission.

This has been a real test that has shown that the might of a large country such as the United States has not been able to subjugate a small country such as Cuba when it is backed by the truth. [end recording]

Viera on Geneva 'Victory'

FL1003042189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Interview with Dr Jose R. Viera Linares, foreign vice minister, by reporter Resillez, in studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Resillez] We have just heard our special correspondent report directly from Geneva on the Cuban victory in Geneva. We have the opportunity of having here with us at the National Television Newscast, Dr Viera, foreign vice minister of our country. We would like to talk and ask him what is his assessment of this Cuban, Latin American, and Third World victory.

[Viera] Well, Comrade Resillez, it is a very significant victory because we have defeated a stubborn and obstinate policy of the United States of attacking our people and trying to humiliate the Cuban Revolution and put in doubt the historic defense of human rights the Revolution has made. This victory has its roots in several sources. Undoubtedly, it stresses the role Cuba has today in international relations and especially the one that Comrade Fidel has. Secondly, this is a victory that I believe started long before today. This is a victory reached because of the way the revolutionary war was waged in Cuba, of the respect we had toward the enemy, toward those detained, the respect we had toward the ones who did not fight. It is also a victory of the later stage of the Revolution with the consistent implementation of the laws, the respect of law in the country, the respect toward counterrevolutionaries. There were never tortures, nobody was ever murdered, there are no missing persons.

All these elements, all this history which comes from Marti's ideas of the just and necessary war, without exaggerations, without [words indistinct] the enemy, without violating the enemy's right were inherited by Fidel, and Fidel developed them. It has also been our people's behavior. They would have not allowed something different. All this was reflected in the report prepared by the UN Human Rights Commission that visited us. This UN commission was not able to produce a report that justified U.S. accusations against Cuba. This also is part of this victory; it is a basic element. Had that report somehow shown that human rights were violated in Cuba, we would not have achieved the victory.

To conclude, this victory is also due to the tenacity and the firmness of negotiations, of the imagination the Revolution's leadership has used in the negotiations, the place we have won among Latin American countries stressed by the recent visits paid by Fidel to Ecuador, Mexico, and Venezuela, and the respect we have even among U.S. allies as it has been expressed in today's voting. I believe these are the things this victory represents.

[Resillez] Viera, speaking of the vote, do you have the countries and the way this vote took place?

[Viera] Yes, it may be a rather complicated explanation but I will try to sum it up in the following way. During the last 72 hours, negotiations have been taking place among the four Latin American countries that had prepared a draft resolution which counted with Cuba's consent. These four countries are Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Panama. These four countries had been negotiating with representatives of the EEC to achieve a document that would have the consensus of all because a confrontation was trying to be avoided, especially taking into account the contribution made by Cuba last year when it invited the UN Human Rights Commission delegation that visited. This work was conducted until around 1630 or 1700 today. Document over document was worked on. Cuba made important contributions in an attempt to reach a consensus. All of our contributions were clashed with the U.S. stubbornness which only wanted one thing—to write Cuba's name permanently under the observation list of the UN Human Rights Commission and to attempt to continue to impose on us an inspection of our country. So, voting took place under these circumstances.

The Latin American draft was voted on first. This Latin American draft had won the moral right of being voted on first since the United States violated a gentleman's

word when it submitted its draft first last Friday ignoring the commitments made. They had to go as far as making an apology to the ECC and Latin American countries. So, that draft had already won the moral right to be voted on first. This is why the Latin American draft was voted on first.

The UK submitted an amendment to the Latin American draft. This amendment reflected the U.S. interests and was defeated by a tie of votes. The amendment needed the majority of votes and it did not get it. The importance of this fact has to be stressed because the amendment that was more moderate than the U.S. draft was also joined by the U.S. pressures for the countries to vote in favor of its position. Nevertheless, it was defeated and the United States did not get the majority vote. This is the first defeat they suffered this evening in Geneva, this afternoon in Havana. The countries that supported us at that time were Botswana, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Ethiopia, the GDR, India, Iraq, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Ukrania, Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and of course, Cuba. The countries that voted in favor of the amendment and against Cuba were: Bangladesh, Belgium, Republic of The Gambia, France, Canada, the FRG, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Phillipines, Portugal, Senegal, Somalia, Sweden, Togo, England, and the United States.

The Latin American draft was voted on immediately after this amendment was defeated and the draft was approved by 32 votes in favor, 1 against—Morocco. Because of the order of the vote, Morocco voted before the United States. It did not realized how the master was going to vote and voted against it. The United States, in an attempt to create more favorable conditions for its own draft, voted in favor of the Latin American draft. Immediately after came the second defeat for the United States because it insisted that its own draft resolution be voted on. The UK insists on having that draft voted on. Then Cuba submited a nonaction motion which was seconded by the Latin American countries. The defeat was even harder at a time when the United States was suffering from its second defeat. Sixteen countries voted in favor that no decision be taken on the U.S. draft. Only seven joined the United States—Bangladesh, Canada, The Gambia, the FRG, Morocco, UK, and the United States. Seventeen countries abstained. A large number of NATO member countries, EEC countries, and western countries were among the group of countries that abstained. They were: Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Spain, and Portugal. This group of countries abstained.

This is why I was saying that even among the U.S. allies, we have won enormous respect with the attitude we have maintained regarding human rights. In addition, other countries from Africa, Latin America, and Asia abstained. But I believe it is important to take into account these countries. The 16 countries that joined us were again, the ones that supported us in the first vote on the UK amendment.

[Resillez] Comrade Viera, we are very grateful for your information to the Cuban television services.

[Viera] My pleasure.

Contents of Draft Revealed

FL1003153489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish
1235 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Report by Daniel Torres during "Hot Off the Press" section of "Revista de la Manana"]

[Text] I have here the content of the resolution presented by Latin America, the one that was approved, which reads literally:

The UN Human Rights Commission has decided:

A. To take note of the serious and complete report that the president of its 45th session, along with the other members of the mission appointed by his decision of year 88-106, has presented as the result of his observation of human rights in Cuba.

B. To thank the Cuban Government and people for the cooperation provided to the mission during its visit, and for the willingness reiterated by Cuban authorities to continue its cooperation in the area of human rights, and to maintain the secretary general informed.

C. To also keep in mind the willingness of the Cuban Government to analyze the points stated by the mission in its report, and to keep in mind the objective evaluations expressed in the debate regarding the exercise and use of human rights in Cuba.

D. To welcome the willingness of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the UN secretary general in maintaining direct contact on matters and questions considered in the mission's report. These contacts will be treated by the UN secretary general in an appropriate manner.

E. To emphasize the spirit of multilateral cooperation that has characterized the work of the mission, which was formed by decision 1988-106.

Commentary Notes Contradictions in U.S. Claims

FL0903200489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Station Commentary]

[Text] There is no human being in the world who can understand the imperial spokespersons, except for maybe themselves. One day they claim that we are experiencing the worst of crises and on another day, they attribute us with powers based on fables to try to show that we are responsible for events that occur outside our borders. So which is it going to be?

Certainly, this whole mess worsens as it gradually descends to the bottom of the stairway of vulgar anticommunism. In other words, it goes beyond the ridiculous.

Today, for example, this delirious riffraff has come up with some kind of rare and crazy theory, according to which—and listen well because this is true—the child care centers, and no less than the child care centers, are the cause of many of our problems. It takes a psychopathic mind to think this. But that is not all.

Cuba is also to blame, according to them, for the dramatic events that recently occurred in Venezuela and Argentina, and for drug trafficking in the continent, social uprisings, strikes, wars, and revolutions. They say Cuba is responsible for all this and more. Nevertheless, they claim that it is experiencing the worst of crises. So which is it going to be? Can one be so stupid? This is how these poor people spend their time: lucubrating, hunting for good phrases, taking advantage of our own criticism on our own matters, and sometimes spreading the nonsense of traitors, which is never lacking. As the poet would say: Kind people, thank you [preceding two words in English]. After all, the applause of the enemy has never been good.

U.S. Denies Visas to Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama

FL0903150589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The U.S. Government has denied visas to representatives of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Panama, who were to attend a conference on the problem of drugs in New York. New York Mayor Edward Koch criticized the State Department's decision and he said that the excluded guests could have made valuable contributions to the deliberations.

Castro, Mrs Mitterrand Visit Research Center

FL0903212489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2039 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today accompanied Mrs Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president and president of the France Liberte Foundation, during a tour through scientific and social institutions. Others who accompanied them were Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Architect (Raphael Doue), secretary general of the France Liberte Foundation; and Jean-Louis Marfaing and Fernando Flores Ibarra, French ambassador to Cuba and Cuban ambassador to France, respectively.

Fidel spoke at the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center on the Cuban experience in the application of interferon to zero positive patients, that is, those infected with the AIDS virus. This program has been implemented in Cuba for 3 years. According to Dr Manuel Limonta, director of the center, Cuba is the first country working in this area.

Visit Writers Union

FL1003133089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Danielle Mitterrand, wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, last night visited the headquarters of the Union of National Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC]. The French first lady was accompanied there by President Fidel Castro. [passage indistinct]

Afterward, Danielle Mitterrand began her meeting with a group representing our country's intellectuals who were at the UNEAC. Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart participated in the exchange with the French first lady who listened to several references on the sources that formed and enriched our cultural wealth.

Mrs Mitterrand also admired several displays of pictures and Cuban ceramics that were on exhibit in the room.

Discuss AIDS Research

FL1003153789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, accompanied Mrs Danielle Mitterrand on her tour of various scientific centers in Havana. Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, also accompanied them on the tour.

[Begin recording] [Passage indistinct]
[Castro] They haven't been here long, right?
[First unidentified speaker] They arrived 15 minutes ago.
[Espin] Every place we go there are many questions, in the child care center...
[First speaker, interrupting] We have been telling them about all the work we have done on AIDS. Not only in the....[passage indistinct—Castro, Mrs Mitterrand, and translator speak at the same time]
[Castro] Go ahead.
[First speaker] Well, I was telling you that in AIDS research, despite all the epidemiological work done by our country and with a system we consider optimum, is to avoid the.....[rewords] people still don't have enough information. [as heard] We have the treatment with interferon. We are the only country in the world that has been doing this for the past 3 years.
[Mrs Mitterrand] Is this mainly for research?
[First speaker] Yes, this is to tell if someone has been in contact with the AIDS virus. [end recording]

In another part of the meeting, the French first lady was told that, presently, in the Biotechnology Institute, 36 types of enzymes are produced. It was stressed that in all of the Latin American countries put together, only 12 are produced.

Afterward, Fidel and Danielle Mitterrand went to the Imunoenzyme Center.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How many lambs are there in the large laboratory?

[Second unidentified speaker] There are 150 lambs.

[Castro] They donate blood. After they donate blood, every one of these lambs is worth tens of thousands of dollars?

[Second speaker] Every donation is worth $50,000.

[Castro] What?

[Second speaker] Every month represents $50,000.

[Castro] From every lamb?

[Second speaker] From every lamb.

[Mrs Mitterrand] Why so much money?

[Second speaker] Because it is a specific antiserum.

[Castro] How many donations do they make per year?

[Second speaker] They give one donation per month which totals 12 per year.

[Castro] One donation per month. Look at the value of one of those animals!

[Second speaker] We also have rabbits here.

[Castro] The rabbits are back there. How many rabbits do you have?

[Second speaker] We have 48 of them.

[Castro] What do the rabbits produce?

[Second speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] What do you use the rabbits for?

[Second speaker] They are used to test the substances with which the lambs will be later inoculated.

[Castro] So you use them as guinea pigs. [chuckles] They test with them the substance they later give the lambs. How often do you have to inoculate the lambs with this substance?

[Second speaker] Initially, they are inoculated once a week.

[Castro] Initially, once a week. What about later?

[Second speaker] Later, they are inoculated once a month.

[Castro] Later it's once a month. They have to be injected so that they produce what we want them to produce. [end recording]

Later the group went to the Ibero-American Center of Nervous System Transplants and Regeneration where Dr Hilda Molina, the director, gave them details of the successes achieved in brain and spine marrow transplants.

At the meeting, Fidel stressed the integral character of that institution. At this institution the staff does research, operates, and follows up on the recuperation and psychological treatment of the patient—a system which has allowed great advances in that scientific establishment, despite being in the first phase of its development.

Oil Prospecting To Supplement Soviet Supplies

PA0903013689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The Soviet Union supplies Cuba with large quantities of oil every year. This helps the country meet its economic and services demands. When the U.S. Government suspended the delivery of oil in an effort to strangle Cuba's economy, the Soviet Union met our requirements with reasonable prices, even during the oil prices boom. Agreements signed with the Soviet Union stipulate that if Cuba saves a certain quantity of oil, it can reexport this oil on the international market, which the country has done in the past few years.

Nonetheless, Cuba has undertaken the gigantic task of surveying the island's surface to determine the presence of oil beds, some of which have already begun to be exploited. Plans for the extraction of hydrocarbons could not be complied with last year, but prospecting in some areas, such as the Bay of Cardenas in the western Matanzas Province is in progress. Oil workers expect to complete the drilling of the first well in the bay within 7 months, which will play a very important role from now on. Hydrocarbons will no longer be extracted from Icacos Peninsula, Matanzas, and activities will be transferred to the Bay of Cardenas because of the former's proximity to the famous Varadero Beach and the fear that its crystalline waters might be polluted with oil.

The Cuban Basic Industry Ministry, which handles oil-related activities, is in charge of implementing a plan to improve the living conditions of oil workers, particularly regarding their food and the modernization of their temporary shelters. The total depth of oil wells drilled throughout the country has reached 120 km. New oil beds, which could provide significant quantities of the so-called black gold for our economy in the future, are expected to be discovered.

Uganda's Local Government Minister Arrives

FL0903191089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Amanya Mushega, local government minister and member of the National Resistance Council, and (Loton Tungwensinge), member of the National Resistance Committee and chief of its legal department, have arrived in Cuba on an official visit. The Ugandan officials were received at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport by Neuris Vernier, Sub-Sahara section chief of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Ugandan delegation will be in Cuba for a week to learn about our experiences in the area of justice. They will also visit areas of historic and economic interest.

Risquet Meets Local Minister

FL1003154589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, has met in Havana with Amanya Mushega, local government minister of Uganda. The meeting was held in a fraternal atmosphere in which they discussed the experiences of their parties.

Medical Delegation Holds Conferences in Ecuador

FL0903143489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] A high-level medical delegation has begun a series of conferences for health professionals and medical sciences students in the capital of Ecuador. After the conferences in Quito concludes, the Cuban medical delegation will travel to Guayaquil to hold talks that will last 3 days.

Frontline States To Verify Namibian Independence

FL0903170589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The six member states of the frontline will send a delegation to Namibia to verify the process of independence in that territory which is expected to begin 1 April. This agreement was reached at a meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana. The meeting was attended by leaders from Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as the African National Congress and other organizations.

During the meeting, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said the Frontline States want to be certain that the November elections in Namibia are free and fair.

The participants agreed to welcome the arrival of the UN supervisory group in Namibia and they called on the international community to support UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar if he has to increase the size of that contingent.

Communist Party Official Comments on Ideology

AU0903155889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 8 Mar 89 p 4

[Interview with Jorge Gomez Barata, chief of the "Revolutionary Propaganda" department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, by Mariana Mikhaylova: "Clever Propaganda Is the Best Counterpropaganda"—in Havana, date not given]

[Text] [Mikhaylova] Comrade Gomez Barata, you have been working for several years in the revolutionary propaganda sector, which is an important and particularly sensitive link in the complicated ideological process. What does it mean for you to part with shortcomings of the past?

[Gomez] It means a total change in ideological work. We are confronted with the task of overcoming several mistakes in propaganda and, along with this, establishing a new concept of cultural policy, and introducing a new idea of the people's participation in socialist production. One of the basic shortcomings we allowed to occur in the past was connected with the concept of technocracy, namely the trend to idolize the economic mechanism, while underestimating all other mechanisms of intellectual output.

[Mikhaylova] Can you describe the methods you are applying to overcome the technocratic approach?

[Gomez] Technocracy as a phenomenon has already been overcome in the economic sector. You are asking how this was done. The answer is: through a consistent application of the mechanism of demand and distribution according to labor, through eliminating the shortcomings in the economic sector, and through changes in the leadership of the economic sphere.

It is a matter of great importance for us to grasp the existing problems and to resolve them in a practical manner, without slogans that do not correspond to the real situation. Reality, however, is neither black, nor white, and it is certainly not rosy. The main conclusion we reached is the fact that our propaganda initiatives did not correctly reflect the real situation. Propaganda activities were more concerned with appeals to improve reality and less with the situation as it exists, a situation that is both varied and complicated.

[Mikhaylova] Do the cliches, which have been built up over many years, not represent an obstacle?

[Gomez] We think that a radical change cannot be achieved without a renewal of cadres. Only three 70-year-old cadres have remained in the revolutionary propaganda department.

[Mikhaylova] Can you describe your stand on the correlation between propaganda and counterpropaganda?

[Gomez] Propaganda that provides specific, convincing, and timely information on all domestic and international events can most effectively play the role of counterpropaganda as well.

[Mikhaylova] You are closely following the issues and cliches of anti-Cuban propaganda. Have you noticed any essential changes in them?

[Gomez] It is difficult to talk about qualitative changes in anti-Cuban propaganda. Reviewing the period of 1988, the year that has just elapsed, we can discern three basic trends in anti-Cuban propaganda. In the first place it concentrates on the economic processes of Cuban revolution. The basic cliches which are used to manipulate national public opinion contain the argument that

the current model of Cuban revolution has not succeeded in resolving the problems of the people's living standard. Statistical data are being grossly distorted in this connection.

Attacks against Fidel Castro's person and our party follow in second place. Two well-known cliches are applied in this connection. We are accused of exporting revolution and our domestic policy is described as military-orthodox and dogmatic. Speculations about our relations with the Soviet Union should be mentioned in third place. Alleged differences between our two countries are being invented and propagated; a non-existent contradiction between what is happening in our country and the "perestroyka" taking place in the Soviet Union is being insinuated.

[Mikhaylova] Can you tell me to which social groups these propaganda activities are addressed?

[Gomez] The United States is transmitting daily over 150 hours of anti-Cuban propaganda over 10 channels to our country. The main radio station is called "Marti." The programs are adapted to the conditions existing in our country and take into consideration the habits and age of various groups in our population. Particular attention is devoted to young audiences. We are well aware of the fact that young people are not concerned about what they cannot see but about the things surrounding them. They are mostly concerned about their future.

[Mikhaylova] Young people's needs are dynamically changing.... Do you encounter anv problems in your relations with young people which cannot be fully resolved?

[Gomez] We have no problems with young people. Our work consists of studying their problems and satisfying their needs in the best way, taking into consideration our economic limitations. The living standard is our basic problem. Restrictions to consumption certainly reflect upon the living standard. It is equally important how many pounds of meat are being consumed, and whether the individual citizen feels totally good. Naturally, it is a common truth that material assets often become the basic source of happiness. The people's demands are increasing, therefore the alternative is to produce more goods. This will make ideological work easier.

[Mikhaylova] What would you describe as the greatest achievement of revolution over the last 30 years?

[Gomez] It is the opportunity granted to every citizen to develop as a person. Social security has been achieved in our country, and this is very important for the stability of the Cuban Revolution itself. We have problems with a manpower shortage, but we have no unemployment. We are striving to create and develop new technologies, as well as to provide new technological education for our workers. Some people are unemployed because their professional training requires requalification, and because the jobs available to them do not satisfy them, but their number is limited. In our opinion, socialism is incompatible with unemployment. We are reorganizing the social structure. Hundreds of thousands of cadres are being transferred to different jobs. A man can be useful in any working place—as long as society needs him. Our young people have confidence in us because we understand them. Differences of opinions inherent to age exist between the generations, but they are being resolved through a dialogue, without any conflict.

[Mikhaylova] In addition to the dialogue which is an important element of the ideological process, what do you consider necessary so that the ideological process may proceed, not by displaying ostensible effectiveness, but by achieving effective results?

[Gomez] The ideological process is not a one-act phenomenon. It accompanies our efforts in the economic, social, cultural, and political spheres. The new style of communication with the public requires open-minded discussions and daily contacts with people, free of formalism and a stale routine. Our ideological work is closely linked to everyday life. The most important thing is that everyone should be at his post. We fully realize that we have sufficient freedom to select our own creative solutions for specific situations. This is the correct method for achieving those higher standards in our life for which we are striving.

People's Government Leader Attends IPU Meeting

FL0903192889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, today departed for Budapest to participate in the 81st conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU]. Delegates to the 13-18 March IPU meeting will analyze important topics, such as the contribution of parliaments to the efforts of the United Nations in attaining complete decolonization, the end of racism and apartheid, and the promotion of the individual and collective rights of national and ethnic minorities. The delegates to the meeting will also discuss the protection of children's rights.

Installation of 50,000 Telephone Lines in Havana

FL0803030689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Excerpt] No less than 50,000 pay and regular telephone lines will begin to be installed in the capital this year. Thirty thousand of them will replace the ones damaged by the fire in the Aguila and Dragones plant.

Workers of the Cludio Argueyes shop from El Naranjito will begin a process that includes technical and organizational changes enabling them to respond to the new

expansion of the public telephone network in the territory. They are now testing a new system in which the caller deposits the coin after he contacts the place he needs.

[Begin unidentified speaker] The caller could get a wrong number and he would lose his call. The coin could jam the coin deposits because they are very old. Coin deposits are 60 years old. Coins jammed because of the system that was being used. Now, with this coin deposit, the old system is eliminated. Coins go directly to the coin deposits and, thus, the call goes through perfectly well without losing coins. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Work Continues at Phone Plant Destroyed by Fire

FL0903023089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The first lines of the Aguila and Dragones telephone plant in Havana will be installed [words indistinct]. Some 20,800 telephone lines for Habana Vieja and part of Centro Habana will be installed in the first floor. Construction workers of the Architecture Works Enterprise are carrying out the final work in the building where exchanges 60 and 61 for state and residential sectors will be located. The other installations for the remaining 10,000 lines will be ready soon. [Words indistinct] construction and communication workers rebuilt the place where the central plant was located. The plant was destroyed by a fire set intentionally in November. Technicians are checking and adjusting the new electromechanic system equipment which is being tested so it can be installed within 12 days.

Women Sentenced for Setting Fire

FL1003152989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] A tribunal in the capital has sentenced Maria Cristina Garcia Bello to 13 years deprivation of liberty [privacion de libertad] for the crime of sabotage against state property. The accused was responsible for setting on fire the central communications panel of the telephone plant on Aguila and Dragones in the capital.

Police Capture Playa Municipality House Thief

FL0903163089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR]

[Text] Thanks to a resident's call to phone number 116 and the efficient action taken by the crew of a patrol car, citizen Miles Santaya Alfonso was caught red-handed committing a crime. Santaya Alfonoso is a resident of 39th Street, No 4206, Playa Municipality. He was captured as he was leaving a home located on 41st Street, No 4408, Playa Municipality, where he committed armed robbery just moments earlier.

Santaya Alfonso waited for the proprietors of the home to leave so he could enter and take a large number of porcelain and silver objects, as well as jewelry and clothing. He was taken by surprise after committing the crime and he tried to flee but was unable to do so because of the effective intervention of the police agents and of an infantry policeman who was near the area. The authorities detained him at the Fifth PNR Municipal Unit where the stolen items were returned to their owners.

The PNR adds that Santaya Alfonso is currently subject to provisional imprisonment and he will next appear before the body that is responsible for administering justice, which will judge and sanction him in accordance with the penal code currently in force.

Anti-AIDS Program Detailed; Statistics Given

PA0803052589 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Report by Susana del Calvo]

[Summary] As part of a plan to control the spread of the AIDS virus in Cuba, 3,734,109 people have been tested for AIDS and 279 have tested positive. Of the 279 patients who tested positive, 12 have died and 43 are suffering from some form of the disease. The other patients who tested positive are being treated at a rest farm [finca de descanso] where all the medical facilities needed are at their disposal.

Cuba has had unique experiences in controlling AIDS, and has developed a comprehensive program for the prevention and control of the deadly disease that currently affects 0.008 percent of the population. Statistics show that the number of people who have tested positive for the AIDS virus has decreased since 1986. In addition, a locally produced AIDS testing kit is being used as part of the program. This has helped reduce the cost of the AIDS prevention program. More than 3 million people will be tested with this kit this year.

* 1989 Production Cost Guidelines Explained

32480091 Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 14 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by Jose Yanes]

[Excerpt] The Finance, Credit, and Cost System Group of the Commission of the National Economic Management System, which is presided over by the State Finance Committee (CEF), has just published an important pamphlet that contains the "working strategy for improving costs and using them as a management tool to be developed in 1989."

The first part of the document focuses on defining the two basic requirements that costs must meet as one of the principal indicators of the economic efficiency of

unions and enterprises, and on discussing the essential reasons why costs have not adequately played their important role in our country in the last few years.

The two requirements define for themselves the working strategy that must be developed in the immediate future with costs, because on the one hand, as the pamphlet points out, there must be sufficient quality, as a technical element, so that a whole system of principles, definitions, and standards can be established to ensure the recording of expenses, the planning of costs, and the analysis of their behavior.

On the other hand, costs should serve as an instrument for the processes of production and services, since they provide collectives with a synthesis of the results obtained in a given period. This facilitates the evaluation of possible decisions to make, guarantees the selection of the decisions that will yield the greatest productive benefit, and reduces or eliminates the risk of bad decisions.

These possibilities for using costs have been very limited in our country in recent years because of a variety of factors that are explained in the pamphlet.

Among these very important factors is the fact that the cost regulations approved in 1977 were aimed more at guaranteeing the requirements of the overall economy than at satisfying the needs of entities. Another factor is the weakness of the base with respect to the standardization of material and labor consumption, a fundamental element in cost planning and control. A third reason is the fact that cost reductions operated more as a target or watchword than as the result of a conscious effort aimed at achieving them. All of these factors have been aggravated by the inaccuracy of statistics and problems with primary controls.

New Cost Regulations

According to the pamphlet published by the CEF's publishing arm, FINANZAS AL DIA, our national and central organizations, the organs of the People's Government, the territorial delegations, unions, and enterprises should concentrate their principal efforts on two strategic directives.

The first one is to design the unique principles and bases that will serve as general guidelines to ensure adequate planning and setting of production costs. On this basis, the various sectors and subsectors can determine what adjustments are necessary and specific, and these adjustments as a whole will in turn form the basis for the establishment of the cost systems that must be drawn up by each union and enterprise for its own use, taking into account its specific needs. The higher levels of these entities will support this effort, if necessary.

This initial stage, which will undoubtedly take much longer than just 1989 to complete, given its complexity, will allow for the discontinuation of the application of the current cost regulations, as it is put into place.

The second strategic directive is to ensure that costs become an instrument for measuring how well material, labor, and financial resources are utilized in each link of the production process in which they are measurable in and of themselves. Then, the collective and individual responsibilities for achieving these costs must be defined clearly, and the quality of planning and record-keeping must be improved so that they can contribute to the analysis of productive results and the measurement of the efficiency with which the unions and enterprises operate.

Finally, the pamphlet defines the tasks to be carried out by all organizations and entities involved in order to implement each of the aforementioned strategic directives. [passage omitted]

Antigua and Barbuda

Reportage on 9 March General Election

'Tough Fight' Predicted

FL0803234889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 8 Mar 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 8, CANA—Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird has predicted a tough fight over the replacement of his elderly father, Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr, after Thursday's general election.

"I can assure you I will be in the middle of the fight," said Lester Bird, who is expected to be pitted against his brother Vere Junior and other Antigua Labour Party leaders in the succession bid when the party holds its next convention.

"The argument by the opposition that we are all divided is not substantively true," Bird told CANA in an interview Tuesday as campaigning for the election moved into the final stages.

"There are differences of alignments and different support obviously because of the fact that the prime minister is approaching 80 years of age. Clearly there has to be a transition and a succession and I think its time enough that we begin to talk about this thing.

"I have been reticent in talking about it in the past because every time you say anything...about it there are those who will go and say, you see he is so eager for power."

"Well, the reality is the time has come for some serious discusion about what's going to happen to the party in terms of transition and succession. All I can assure you is I will be in the middle of the fight. And in any democratic situation so long as its fairly done within the party structure, I will abide by it."

ALP critics, such as the leader of the Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) Tim Hector, charge that the party is divided as it faces the polls.

"I didn't know we were going to elect a president for Antigua," said Hector, referring to Vere Bird Jr's campaign. Bird Jr has giant posters of himself all over Antigua's 16 constituencies. "There will be public fighting afterwards among the ALP leadership," Hector told CANA.

"I think part of the problem the Labour Party has had in this election either perception wise or reality wise is the fact that two Labour Party candidates are running in two or three constituencies. I think it is a most unfortunate situation and as chairman of the party I abhor it and I say that it is something that the leadership of this party must look after in the next election," Lester Bird said.

He said he could not deny there was internecine warfare in the ALP "because it is evidenced that there is an attempt to undermine certain constituencies by people within the same Labour Party." However he does not think it will reach a stage where it will cause a split in the ALP.

Hector has highlighted in OUTLET, the ACLM's newspaper, allegations that Vere Jr is backing suspended ALP member Dr Lemuel Sealy to run against Trade Minister Hugh Marshall.

At the same time OUTLET points to Lester Bird's support for Marshall at public meetings and notes that Marshall was among Lester Bird's faction which distanced itself from charges of corruption and "nest feathering" by cabinet ministers.

The ALP has been campaigning on its record in office. It says it has significantly improved the economy and the standard of living here. The ALP chairman says his party isn't going to turn away from "bread and butter" issues. He admits that the corruption charges of UNDP [United National Democratic Party] and ACLM have some merit and have caused the ALP "some hiccups."

"(But) we have highlighted the progress—the capital formation, increased savings, local participation in tourism, increase in per capita income from 2,000 ED dollars in 1976 to 11,000 dollars today, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) no longer considers us a poor country and the seven to eight per cent growth in the economy over the past few years," Lester Bird said.

"We are not going to allow them (the opposition) to carry us into areas which would prevent the people from seeing what the real issues are: voting on bread and butter and economic issues."

According to Bird, the ALP created 17,500 new jobs since 1976 at a cost of U.S. 25,000 each.

The UNDP, he said, promised in its manifesto to create 20,000 new jobs which an international firm has evaluated would cost the country 437 million dollars "when Antigua has full employment."

"External debt is not an issue in this election. We are consolidating our external debt which is to be amortised over a period of time," Bird said. "All this is planned development, not luck."

The ACLM disagrees. It says buoyant economic conditions in the United States are sparking the growth in tourism which is keeping the economy here alive.

The UNDP says a low turnout on Thursday will return the ALP to power, since the 12,000 opposition votes in 1976 dwindled to 9,000 in 1980 and 4,500 in 1984 while the ALP's support remained constant. Lester Bird does not agree that a high turnout will adversely affect the ALP.

"Clearly they have nowhere to go but up. And clearly the (Antigua Workers Unions) have mobilised—not the UNDP, the union. That's the base," he said.

"And I suspect that there wil be an increase in the aggregate amount of voters coming from the opposition but we have been able to mobilise our people also and stimulate them to recognise the dangers of us losing office and bringing to a halt the whole continuity of growth in the country. And we will get our pro rata share of that new turnout," said Lester Bird.

Paper Shortage Delays Voting

FL0903142989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1429 GMT 9 Mar 89

[By Mark Lee, CANA headquarters staffer on assignment]

St Johns, Antigua, March 9, CANA—Voting began up to an hour late at some polling stations here on an overcast and rainy morning in the St Johns area, as over 36,000 eligible Antiguans and Barbudans went to the polls Thursday to elect a new government for the next 5 years.

Supervisor of elections, Keithley Hill, attributed the late start to the non-arrival of ballot papers from the government printery. But voting was brisk when it started at about 7:00 a.m. While the general feeling is that the Antigua Labour Party [ALP] of 78-year-old Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr will be returned to power, even ALP officials give the United National Democratic Party

(UNDP of Dr Ivor Heath a chance to take possibly 4 of the 16 Antigua seats and break the near ALP monopoly on the 17-member house of representatives of the twin-island state.

The left-wing Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) of Tim Hector, which is contesting only 12 Antigua constituencies, has already acknowledged that it's unlikely to win the election.

In last minute campaigning Wednesday night, Father of the Nation Bird made what some say might have been his last appearance on a campaign platform as ALP leader and urged support for a fourth staight term for the party.

He urged Antiguans to vote for a continuation of the "economic progress" the ALP has brought to the country—maintaining the campaign theme that the opposition lacked experience in government and managing the economy.

The ALP's image has suffered somewhat from its acknowledgement that there could well be a struggle played out fully after the election over who will succeed the aging ALP leader and by extension the government, should the party win.

The UNDP ended its campaign still pushing its primary theme of corruption in the government, but was without Heath, said to be down with the flu.

Supervisor of Elections Hill expects first results from the 77 polling stations in 51 divisions by 10:00 p.m. (0200 hrs GMT). He feels Barbuda, with its 700-odd voters, will be the first seat to be declared. By 11:00, Antigua's results should be rolling in, he said.

Speculation here is that incumbent Eric Burton of the Barbuda National Party will loose his seat to Thomas H Frank of the Barbuda People's Movement, which is supported by the UNDP.

'Printing Errors' on Ballot Papers

FL0903231589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2259 GMT 9 Mar 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, March 9, CANA—Thursday's general election in Antigua and Barbuda was marred by a shortage of ballot papers at several polling station in up to five constituencies, electoral and party officials reported.

Among the constituencies affected were St Johns City West, St Johns rural West, St Mary's North, All Saints west and All Saints East/St Lukes.

An election official who asked not to be identified said the problem was caused by printing errors on the ballot papers. He said the names of candidates were printed in reverse alphabetical order on the papers and had to be done over. Voters were told to return to the polling stations later.

Voters said the shortage led to the loss of up to five hours of polling time in some instances. There was also a loss of voting time because of the late arrival of ballots at some stations.

The supervisor of elections, Keithley Hill, was in the field and unavailable for comment.

Opposition politicians have been complaining about the voting problems. "We are very concerned about the shortage of ballot papers," said Len Johnson, secretary of the United National Democratic Party. "We feel its a serious and deliberate attempt by the Antigua Labour Party government to steal the election."

Voting began up to an hour late at some polling stations.

Hill attributed the late start to the non-arrival of ballot papers from the government printery. But voting was brisk when it started at about 7:00 am.

While the general feeling is that the Antigua Labour Party of 78-year-old Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr will be returned to power, even ALP officials give the United National Democratic Party of Dr Ivor Heath a chance to take possibly four of the 16 Antigua seats and break the near ALP monopoly on the 17-member House of Representatives of the twin-island state.

The left-wing Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) of Tim Hector, which is contesting only 12 Antigua constituencies, has already acknowledged that its unlikely to will win the election. [sentence as received]

Polling Extended by 3 Hours

FL0903232589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 9, CANA—A high court has ordered the extension of polling by three hours in 10 of 17 constituencies in Thursday's Antigua and Barbuda general elections after a shortage of ballot papers caused the temporary curtailment of voting during the day.

Justice Mitchell based his decision on an application brought to the high court by supervisor of elections, Keithley Hill.

Voting in the 10 constituencies was stopped for periods of up to five hours because of the non-arrival of ballot papers at polling stations.

Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird had shortly before the announcement told CANA it was "absolutely reprehensible that such a thing should have gone wrong" and scoffed at a charge that the incumbent Antigua Labour Party was attempting to blight the chances of the opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP), the main challenger for power.

"I can't see how it would be to the party's or the government's advantage to do this," Bird said since there was no way to distinguish which party's supporter was being prevented from voting. Bird said it was clearly due to the inefficiency of the election office which "only has to perform once every five years."

He said the supervisor of the election in his own discreetion should do the only fair and equitable thing which was to extend the time for people to vote if it was by an act of officials that anything had gone wrong.

While Hill was unavailable for comment authoritative sources told CANA that the government printery only received the ballot paper instructions from the supervisor Wednesday night. Ballots were approved with printing errors and had to be redone while polling had started this morning at six.

The polls should have closed at 6:00 pm in all 17 constituencies.

The constituencies affected are St Johns City West, St Marys South, St Marys North, All Saints West, St Phillips North, St Johns Rural West, St Georges, All Saints East and St Luke (one constituency), St John City South and St John Rural South.

Coalition Government Likely

FL0903215589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2148 GMT 9 Mar 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 9, CANA—A coalition government could emerge here if the main opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP) wins four of the 17 seats at stake in today's general elections, political observers said.

According to their analysis, the factionalism inside the incumbent Antigua Labour Party (ALP) and continuing internal controversy over who should succeed aging Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr, will be dramatically played out after the votes are counted. In this scenario, the observers theorised, a sufficiently strong numerical bloc of the divided ALP could well line up behind the UNDP, led by surgeon Dr Ivor Heath.

"You won't find people crossing the floor and leaving the ALP to join the UNDP because the Antigua Constitution does not allow that. But you will certainly see a coalition, because the Constitution recognises the prime minister as the person who commands the support of the greatest number of the elected members of the house of representatives," said one analyst who asked not to be named.

The 78-year-old Vere Bird Sr has been active in politics here for the past 50 years and three of his sons sat in the last parliament. Two of them, Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird and fellow minister Vere Jr along with at least one other non-family cabinet member have featured prominently in the tussle over the succession issue.

Lester Bird has already told CANA that it was time the matter be dealt with frankly and that he will be in the thick of the fight for the ALP leadership.

During its campaign, the UNDP, which is fielding 16 candidates, called for voters to turn back "Birdism" and the "Bird fiefdom," often making references to "Haitian-style" corruption.

Lester Bird and Trade Minister Hugh Marshall have often distanced themselves from allegations of corruption and chastised colleagues against whom charges have been made.

The ALP, which had all but one of the seats in the last parliament, has been in power here for some 14 straight years. Also competing in the race is the left-wing Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, led by ex-schoolteacher and newspaper editor Tim Hector.

Voting slowed to a trickle by noon Thursday with reports of some polling stations running out of ballot papers. There was brisk early morning voting despite rain and at least a one hour delay caused by the non-arrival of ballot papers at some polling stations.

ACLM leader Tim Hector expressed dismay at the turnout saying that favoured the ALP. "From our point of view (the low turnout) is frightening," said Hector whose party fielded 12 candidates.

He blamed the late start on the inefficiency of the election office. However, officials were unavailable for comment.

A source at the local council in Barbuda reported a goodturn out on Antigua's sister island, where there are nearly 800 of the almost 37,000 registered voters.

Labor Party Takes Early Lead

FL1003032789 Bridgetown CANA in English 0310 GMT 10 Mar 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 10, CANA—Prime Minister Vere Bird's party took an early lead when counting of ballots started Thursday night after Antigua and Barbuda's general election.

The Antigua Labour Party took the first two seats declared by electoral officials and party candidates held substantial leads in at least seven constituencies where counting was continuing.

The ALP's Dr Rodney Williams won the St Paul constituency seat—the first seat declared—defeating Eustace Potter of the United National Democratic Party (UNDP).

Williams received 977 votes to Potter's 243 in the ALP Myers, a businessman, who collected 545 votes. He crushed the UNDP's Leon David, also a businessman, who received only 36 votes, and the Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement's Anthonyson King, a teacher who picked up 27 votes.

The St Peter constituency has an electorate of 1,077.

Seventeen parliamentary seats were contested in the election, which was marked by the late opening of polling stations and the shortage of ballots.

A high court ordered the extension of polling by three hours in 10 of 17 constituencies because of the shortage of ballot papers caused the temporary curtailment of voting during the day. The judge based his decision on an application brought to the high court by supervisor of elections, Keithley Hill. Voting in the 10 constituencies was stopped for periods of up to five hours because of the non-arrival of ballot papers at polling stations.

Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird had shortly before the announcement told CANA it was "absolutely reprehensible that such a thing should have gone wrong" and scoffed at a charge that the incumbent Antigua Labour Party was attempting to ruin the chances of the opposition United National Democratic Party, the main challenger for power.

'Sweeping Win' for ALP

FL1003125189 Bridgetown CANA in English 0748 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, March 10, CANA—It was another sweeping win for the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) in Thursday's general elections.

With vote-counting still underway this morning, the ALP had taken all but one of the 10 seats then declared and was well ahead in several others.

It was virtually the same slate of ALP candidates which swept the polls similarly in 1984, including Prime Minister Vere Bird and two sons.

The leaders of both opposition parties failed to gain seats—Tim Hector of the ACLM [Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement] and Ivor Heath, who heads the UNDP [United National Democratic Party]. The UNDP was however expected to win at least one seat.

THe people in Barbuda voted out Eric Burton and replaced him with independent Hilbourne Frank.

Barbados

Queen Elizabeth Adresses Parliament

FL0903224289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 9, CANA—A philosophical Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday underscored the importance of courage, tolerance and humility as she briefly addressed Barbados parliament.

"We are all of us inheritors of our history, and this burden may sometimes confuse or depress us," she said.

Through faith and goodwill we must use the errors of the past to redeem the present and safeguard the future. Courage, tolerance, humility and a willingness to share our blessings with others can make our world a better place."

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, flew here Wednesday for a four-day visit.

The queen started her official programme Thursday with the address to parliament, celebrating its 350th anniversary. Later she lunched with parliamentarians.

"Any nation which can boast of the continuous existence of a parliament for 350 years has sure grounds for pride," the queen remarked as she made an historic visit to the newly refurbished Senate building in the heart of Bridgetown.

In the five-minute address, she noted that the country was admired for many things apart from its "natural beauty and world famous cricketers," including its "passion for education" and devotion to senior citizens and disabled persons.

"Most significant of all your achievements is the success with which you have nourished and brought to maturity, through many painful experiences, a constitutional system of democratic government, from which others have much to learn," she said.

For these reasons I am proud and happy to be your queen, and I pray that God may bless your national endeavours," she concluded.

In his address the speaker of the House, Lawson Weekes, congratulated the Senate on the "distinction and grandeur" of the refurbished chamber, and noted that the 350 years of parliament here boasted at least one achievement "unsurpassed elsewhere" in the Commonwealth. "That achievement is continuity," he said. "The trauma of the long parliament of England was not ours. Our trauma was in the scars of slavery and indentured

labour and the rigours of a society where that labour was plundered by wealth and that wealth was controlled by narrow landed and mercantile interests," he added.

To the queen, he said: "We could wish today for nothing better than the gracious presence of Your Majesty, for which we are so happy, and we look forward to even more frequent expressions of yor right to be with us to whom you are so welcome."

After meeting with specially invited guests in the ante room of the Senate, the queen proceeded onto the balcony where she stopped to chat with some guests, then to the courtyard where she also spoke to several of the young persons standing guard. She later went out to the small crowd gathered at the Trafalgar Square area where she smiled and chatted with some members of the public.

In the picturesque approach to parliament under the Independence Arch, across the Chamberlain Bridge with sunlight glistening on the water on either side, and past Trafalgar Square, the royal party was greeted by waves and cheers.

Outside parliament, the queen received a royal salute by a handsomely turned-out guard of honour, and cheers from the small crowd which had gathered behind barricades within the courtyard to see the British head of state.

Wearing all blue, the queen and Prince Philip accompanied by the president of the Senate, Sir Frank Walcott, and the speaker of the House, climbed the 21 steps to the Senate to be greeted by a royal fanfare from members of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

The Senate chamber has been redone with rich red carpet, and the queen and Prince Philip sat in matching red chairs, flanked by large, almost life-sized portraits of themselves, and bouquets of local flowers including anthuriums.

In a ceremony lasting approximately 30 minutes the royal party listened to speeches from the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House, after which the queen expressed thanks for the "kind words" and said she felt "very much at home" here.

Grenada

Bishop Murder Appeal Adjourned Until 22 May

FL0903004789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 8, CANA—Grenada's appeal court on Wednesday put off further hearing of the case of several former Army and government figures sentenced to death or prison terms in connection with the 1983 killing of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The murder appeal was adjourned until May 22 after the court had heard a week and a half of submissions from defence lawyers.

Before the adjournment, court president Sir Frederick Smith of Barbados said that during the long break the judges would be taken up with other cases. Sir Frederick said that although the court wanted to dispense with the Bishop appeal it could not allow that case to prevent others the right from getting justice.

"This court cannot be unmindful that there are citizens too languishing in prison waiting for their matters to be heard by the court of appeal", he said. "The court is taking the opportunity in this interval to dispense with other matters which have been there for some time now," he added.

Sir Frederick cited one of these cases as a multi-million dollar compensation suit brought by Cuba against the Government of Grenada. Havana is claiming compensation for several pieces of equipment used in the construction of Grenada's Point Salines International Airport during the 1979-83 rule of the leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Another large sum of money is being sought for damage to an Air Cubana plane during the 1983 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada that ended near five years flirtation with left-wing revolution.

On the Bishop murder case, Sir Frederick told defence lawyers that the court was requesting them to submit their arguments in skeleton form to the registry by May 8. He said this would go a long way in speeding up the completion of arguments on both sides of the case.

According to Sir Frederick, when the court resumes sitting, a date would be set for the prosecution to submit skeleton arguments in response to the defense case. The appeal involved 17 persons convicted in 1986 for the execution of Prime Minister Bishop at Army headquarters at Forth Rupert. Fourteen, including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his wife Phyllis, were sentenced to hang while three others were given stiff prison sentences.

During the just-concluded sitting, the 12-member defence team focused its arguments mainly on alleged mis-directions given to the jury by trial Judge Denis Byron.

Haiti

Interference With People's Movement Denounced

FL0903160689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The Confederation for Democratic Unity, KID, has denounced in a press conference a series of practices being engaged in, according to KID, by certain

organizations with a view to blocking the people's movement. KID's statements at the press conference targeted particularly the APN [People's National Assembly], HAITI-PROGRES [a periodical published in New York City], and a few other little groups—which by sowing confusion, division, corruption, betrayal, and denunciations among the people's organizations, refuse to allow the unity of the people's camp to be achieved, says KID.

KID asks for HAITI-PROGRES and the APN to unmask themselves, in the interest of the people's struggle. KID says that in Volume 6, No 6 of the periodical HAITI-PROGRES, which was put out for 2-17 May 1988, there was an article that said that KID was involved in the 29 November elections and that KID was supporting [Gerard] Gourgue—whereas KID's position regarding any elections under the KNG [National Government Council] was clear before 29 November, says KID.

KID also denounces the APN's political position, which is not clear to KID at all and which is causing division. KID also claims that the APN is also serving as a police informer. KID says it published the pictures of five young people from Labadie at a time when they were being persecuted, after the 14 August massacre.

KID also reports that APN denounced the members of IFPO [Union of Popular Forces of Cap Haitien], a member of ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations], as being the ones who were throwing rocks at (Fanelie Francois) School in order to prevent children from attending school. We will listen to these statements.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] They also said that IFPO put out tracts, and they didn't just say it in that one broadcast. They also said it in a lecture-discussion held by the KID-IFPO unit of ANOP last 23 February. They went up there again and said that the IFPO people were putting out tracts, and we know for sure that that is the work of the SD [expansion not provided—political police under the Duvalier regime], the work of the police.

We insulted them, calling them macoutes, because that is what macoutes do—go around denouncing people. [passage omitted] We think that if they were really truly a people's organization, they would not have such an attitude toward another people's organization. [passage omitted] I was there at the lecture-discussion myself and heard them denouncing IFPO with my own ears. [passage omitted] They also denounced KID in connection with a host of things. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In connection with the problem of the terror, insecurity, and repression that is ravaging the population, KID-ANOP asks the Haitian people to form vigilance brigades. [passage omitted]

KID maintains the watchword: Set up, together with the masses, a people's government, a people's alternative that is directed by the masses and under the control of the people's organizations. This, KID says, is the only valid solution in the interests of the masses that is capable of blocking all the plots and all the (?crooked maneuvers) of all kinds that are being set up against the people, the people's organizations, and all true patriots.

Presidential Commission Names Public Prosecutor

FL0903180289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] By presidential commission dated 6 March 1989, Mr Jacaman Charles is appointed deputy representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the Court of Appeals in Port-au-Prince.

Also, Mr (Lexius H. Pierre) is appointed, by presidential commission also dated 6 March 1989, representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the Civil Court of Port-au-Prince, replacing Mr Jacaman Charles.

Police Communique on Confiscation of Firearms

FL0903174789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Port-au-Prince police announce to the general public that firearms were confiscated from a number of people during searches conducted in diverse neighborhoods in the capital last Saturday, 4 March. The weapons were confiscated from those who did not have a normal authorization to carry these weapons. Consequently, the police invites everyone in this position to come quickly to the competent police department for the necessary followup.

Sanctions provided for by the law will be applied to those failing to comply.

By order of Colonel Georges Valcin, chief of the Port-au-Prince police.

This communique is signed by Marie Alix Rene, executive officer in charge of public relations.

Ministry Announces Government To Fix Prices

FL0903181189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Haitian Government recently issued, on 28 February 1989, a decree defining the mechanisms for checking and supervising prices, an Information Ministry press release has announced. Under the terms of this decree, prices are arrived at according to the following methods, applied by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry: on the basis of the equivalency of products, by price-averaging, by administering prices, and by limiting profit margins.

Equivalent, average, and administered prices, as well as profit margins permitted, are to be published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as is a list of the products falling under the different regimes.

All merchants must respect the prices set or authorized by the competent agency. Failure to respect the prices set constitutes a crime.

Upon a formal written record of proceedings drawn up by two duly sworn-in inspectors from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or from the fiscal administration empowered to investigate violations will be punished by fines (?and) imprisonment to be handed down by the court of summary jurisdiction; by permanent confiscation by the government of the goods seized upon noting the violation; by temporary or permanent suspension of the merchant's activities; or by shutting down the business premises.

This decree of 28 February 1989 reflects the government's desire to intervene and set prices and follow their ups and downs with a view to providing better protection for consumers, the Information Ministry press release concluded.

Jamaica

Ewart to Head Economic, Development Agency

FL0903184689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1457 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 9, CANA—Barclay A. Ewart, a big name in industry here, has been appointed chairman of Jampro, Jamaica's Economic and Development Agency.

The announcement was made in Kingston by P.J. Paterson, Jamaica's deputy prime minister and minister of development, production, and planning and becomes effective April 1.

He replaces Carlton Alexander, who retires at the end of the fiscal year, after holding the post for 8 years.

Ewart will also serve in the Senate, Jamaica's upper house, an appointment made by Prime Minister Michael Manley.

Senator Ewart is chairman and managing director of the Alkali Group of companies which includes Industrial Chemical, Caribbean Exporters, Tanners, Leder Mode, Glenbar Factory Outlet, and Power and Tractors Limited.

He is a director of Prudential Stockbrokers Limited, and a former chairman of the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, Scientific Research Council and former director of the GLEANER Company Limited, Jamaica's major newspaper.

Death Penalty Issue on Cabinet Agenda

FL0903123489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Jamaican Justice Minister Carl Rattray says he will put the death penalty issue on the Cabinet agenda of the new Jamaican Government. He was responding to a call by Amnesty International on Tuesday for Jamaica to abolish its death penalty.

Mr Rattray noted in a statement that Parliament will probably make the final decision on the issue. He speculated that Jamaica could do what other countries have done abolishing the death penalty except for such crimes as the murder of a policeman. Executions were banned under the earlier government of Prime Minister Michael Manley.

St Christopher and Nevis

Simmonds Calls for Violence-Free Elections

FL0803214789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, March 8, CANA—Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds has issued a call to citizens of this twin island federation who vote in general elections March 21 to ensure the poll "will be free from violence, threats or any unbecoming behavior."

The prime minister's call was made in a press release issued on Monday evening. He told residents "we have claimed the proud honour of being designated the freest nation on earth, but freedom without discipline and respect for the rights of others endangers the public peace." Simmonds assured the population that the election requirements as provided for in the Constitution have been complied with, "and all machinery is in place for a free and democratic electoral process."

The release said all political speakers are able to exercise their fundamental constitutional right of free and public expression. The prime minister said he viewed with distress instances of misbehavior "totally unbecoming of us" as a decent democratic nation. He was referring to the outbreak of "poster warfare" with persons accused of destroying and defacing political posters, even trespassing on private property in the process. "There is ample room for posters of all political candidates to be displayed," the prime minister added.

Simmonds, whose ruling People's Action Movement (PAM) is seeking a third consecutive term in office, also complained of threats of physical attack and "inflammatory statements made in the heat of campaigning."

The prime minister said what he found most distressing is the hostile attitude being displayed to police officers by some candidates and their supporters.

"We are proud of our police officers, and we must appreciate the tremendous burden placed upon them at this particular time" he remarked. "The police force is entitled to our respect and our full co-operation."

Simmonds urged Kittsians and Nevisians to cease all forms of violence and to peacefully select the candidate of their choice. He suggested that the islanders, regardless of political persuasion, conduct themselves in accordance with the law and good sense. "We have always been renowned as a peace loving people. Let us keep St Kitts and Nevis a country where peace abounds," he concluded.

Trinidad and Tobago

Education Minister's Resignation Still Unaccepted

FL0903132889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Trinidadian Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson still hasn't accepted the resignation of Education Minister Clive Pantin. Mr Pantin resigned after Monday's 1-day general strike which shut down most of the country's schools. The education minister said Monday's low school attendance showed a lack of confidence in him.

Prime Minister Robinson said yesterday the resignation of Pantin would be a great loss, both to the cabinet and the country.

El Salvador

Duarte Cited on Government Commission Meeting

PA0903213889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1912 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Danilo Marceno Rivas on statements by President Jose Napoleon Duarte at the presidential palace in San Salvador on 9 March—live or recorded]

[Text] We are at the presidential palace where approximately 30 minutes ago a meeting began between the members of the legislative and executive commissions who will form the government commission that is to attend a dialogue with insurgents of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Attending the meeting are the members of the executive commission: Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, First Designate to the Presidency Abraham Rodriguez, and Defense and Public Security Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova; and the four members of the legislative commission: Dr Jose Francisco Guerrero; Dr Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo; Alfonso Aristides Alvarenga; and Rafael Machuca. Also attending the meeting are Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte and Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso. During the meeting this afternoon they will discuss a proposal presented by the Authentic Christian Movement, MAC, which requests that the guerrillas declare a cease-fire 3 days before and 3 days after the 19 March elections.

According to MAC representative Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo, the MAC proposal aims to resume the dialogue with the FMLN, if possible, 1 day after the 19 March elections.

Following are President Duarte's statements explaining the purpose of today's meeting:

[Begin recording] [Duarte] Good afternoon. The Legislative Assembly and the Executive Branch presidents have just been appointed to a government commission made up of legislative and executive branch members. We are publicly making a peace effort and seeking a dialogue with the FMLN to eliminate the use of violence and terrorism as a means of attaining power and to declare a necessary halt to the hostilities.

Second, we want to try to incorporate the FMLN into the country's ongoing democratic process. We hope the FMLN will realize that our democratic process allows the participation of all political groups and thus eliminates a justification or a need for violence.

Third, once the FMLN joins the country's political life, it will be able to participate in the country's entire political process.

That is basically the reason for today's meeting. Through the legislative and executive branch representatives, the government commission will try to reach agreements and present proposals in order to continue making efforts to seek peace. I want to add that all past actions are part of the process to attain peace. [Words indistinct] see the various statements made by one group or another in a negative manner, but to admit that we are heading toward peace. This meeting and the positions of the various political parties and the FMLN are all slowly heading toward a peace process as [words indistinct] the democratic process. Elections are part of the democratic process and are the truly valid way to attain power.

[Reporter] Mr President, the FMLN's latest proposal includes a postponement of the dialogue. Would this meeting make any sense in view of the fact that the FMLN practically rejected the dialogue?

[Duarte] It always makes sense to have a meeting such as this one. If the FMLN rejects the dialogue, that is its problem. We continue seeking peace, and I believe the purpose of the meeting held today by the government commission—made up of members of the legislative and executive branches—is to make an effort in the search for peace, regardless of the many obstacles we have to face. The true search entails overcoming these obstacles and having true faith and hope that we will achieve peace.

[Reporter] Mr President, the president of the Central Electoral Council insists on postponing the elections until 31 March. When will elections be held?

[Duarte] We will discuss this issue with the commissions now. We must reach an agreement on whether the peace process makes sense and on whether changing the date of the elections makes sense. We will discuss that here. If these things do not make sense, if [words indistinct] maintain the dates as established, we will discuss it here too.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] The Central Electoral Council established that elections will be held on 19 March. That is the official election day as of now, as established by our Constitution. The only authority that can change that date is the Central Electoral Council. It is the appropriate authority in this regard. Another way to change the date of the elections would be through the issuance of a law. In other words, if there is no reason to change the date of the elections, then the election day continues to be 19 March.

[Reporter] What is your specific position regarding the latest FMLN proposal?

[Duarte] The FMLN's position shows [words indistinct] about peace. The FMLN only wanted to take advantage of the process of social disturbances—which is normal

during any election process, because disagreements always exist in an election campaign. The FMLN wanted to take advantage of these disagreements. Now that we are in the homestretch, the FMLN wants to sow confusion. This confusion not only affects the country's political life—such as the fact that the FMLN is now rejecting peace, [word indistinct], and dialogue just as it did after the meeting held in Sesori.

At that time, the commissions had already gone to Venezuela to discuss the cease-fire, and the FMLN refused to travel and gave all kinds of other excuses. That is what happened to the government commission that traveled to Venezuela to hold peace talks and to discuss the incorporation of the FMLN into the democratic process. They used the death of the man linked to the human rights organization, Mr Saravia, who they themselves killed, as an excuse to suspend the talks.

This means that their strategy is to create situations and issue proposals to cause a stir locally and abroad through peace proposals, which they then refuse to comply with. The FMLN is looking for reasons not to comply with these proposals. When the moment of truth arrives, they then blame others and solve the problem by not attending the talks.

[Reporter] Mr President, is there any reciprocal [word indistinct] from the various politicians [words indistinct] time for the steps taken for a direct dialogue with the FMLN? An election process that could lead to violence is coming up. How do you view this situation?

[Duarte] First, the election date was set for 19 March a long time ago, yet the FMLN presented its proposal just a little before 19 March. That is why we offered to [word indistinct] time to allow more of an opportunity to seek peace through a dialogue since the time between the presentation of the initial FMLN proposal and election day was not sufficient. That is why I proposed a [word indistinct]. [end recording]

These statements were made by President Duarte this morning at the beginning of the meeting with the legislative and executive branch representatives at the government palace.

In response to a question regarding whether he was willing to resume a dialogue with the guerrilla movement after the elections, President Duarte said he was willing to hold direct talks with the FMLN guerrillas.

According to what we learned from the members of the legislative and executive branch commissions, they will not discuss the possibility of postponing the 19 March elections at today's meeting. They hinted, however, that there is a possibility that they might draft a proposal today for holding talks with the FMLN at the end of March.

Commission Requests FMLN Cease-Fire, Talks

PA1003122389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2228 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government commission today asked the guerrillas for a unilateral cease-fire in order to immediately begin a dialogue seeking a political solution to the war.

The commission for holding talks with the rebels, made up of representatives of the executive and legislative branches, was formed today at the presidential palace. The commission announced that it was going into "permanent session" to await a reply from the rebels.

Eduardo Colindres, spokesman for the commission, said that it is willing to begin a dialogue with the guerrillas with an "open agenda" to discuss a definitive end to the hostilities, the reincorporation of the rebels into the democratic process, and recognition of a single army.

Colindres said that the meetings with the guerrillas could be held in Guatemala or Costa Rica but not in El Salvador—as the guerrillas have proposed—"to avoid unnecessary pressures and to keep the talks from being used as a political instrument," he said.

The government commission that would hold the dialogue with the guerrillas—as President Jose Napoleon Duarte proposed nearly 2 weeks ago—was formed today after the rightist-controlled Legislative Assembly appointed four deputies to form the commission.

On Wednesday, however, the guerrillas called on the people to "abstain" from voting or to "void" their ballots in the presidential elections slated for 19 March and postponed a dialogue with the government until after the elections.

The guerrillas said they are willing to initiate conversations to end the war through negotiated means, but they insisted that this will occur only after the elections since doing otherwise "would be deceiving the people and endorsing illegitimate and fraudulent elections," the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said in a communique released in San Salvador.

Colindres said that a dialogue with an "open agenda" entails discussing with the guerrillas the points that the rebels have proposed for ending the war, which has resulted in over 70,000 deaths in the last 9 years.

The guerrillas proposed reducing the number of Armed Forces personnel, punishing those in the military responsible for political crimes, and dissolving the security corps and forming only one security entity controlled by civilians. In exchange, the FMLN has said it is willing to discontinue the armed struggle as a means of attaining power.

The government commission is made up of Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, First Designate to the Presidency Abraham Rodriguez, Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova, and Secretary of Protocol Eduardo Colindres.

On behalf of the legislative branch, the commission includes Deputies Jose Francisco Guerrero, of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA); Guillermo Guevara Lacayo, of the Authentic Christian Movement; Aristides Alvarenga, of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC); and Jose Rafael Machuca, of the minority rightist National Conciliation Party (PCN).

Colindres also said that the government has not received any communication from the FMLN in which it announces suspending the dialogue prior to the presidential elections.

Regarding the guerrillas' 24 January proposal to postpone the elections, Colindres said that "this is not a matter for the government commission but for the Central Electoral Council."

Duarte said that the guerrillas "do not want peace but war" when they reject talks with the government prior to the elections.

The Salvadoran parties will meet this afternoon to discuss the advisability of postponing the elections and withdrawing their candidates. Meanwhile, no government source dares to confirm 19 March as the election day.

FMLN Broadcasts Denounce Election Plans

'Electoral Farce' Deplored

PA1003123589 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2326 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Station commentary: "The 19 March Elections: Intensification of the Crisis and Nearing a Social Explosion"]

[Text] While the UN condemned the Napoleon Duarte government for the increasing number of human rights violations in El Salvador, all the peoples groups in the country maintain that the 19 March elections will only serve to increase war. Political and diplomatic observers have also stated the elections are a (?risk). The right-wing sectors do not want to postpone the elections because they are fully aware of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] great influence on the people, which would wipe out all these politicians who have only helped to worsen the crisis, misery, and repression in our country. [1-minute break in reception] more to the electoral fraud already prepared by the Nationalist Republican Alliance, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Armed Forces. In other words, the elections will be militarized by the repressive forces in response to the orders of their Yankee masters and to the ruling party's political interests.

This militarization, especially in San Salvador and the country's major cities, [words indistinct] even further this electoral farce promoted by the yankee embassy. In addition, the generalized repression—the captures, kidnappings, murders, terrorist attacks by the Armed Forces against people's organizations, and the massacres implemented by [General Juan Rafael] Bustillo's Air Force, as happened on 8 March in Morazan—allows local and foreign observers to see the conditions in which the elections will be held, as part of the incorrectly labeled Salvadoran democratic process.

To all this we must add that in many, many places in the country, the enemy's local power has been broken down by the people's desire. Therefore, it will be impossible to hold the elections because the government does not have the repressive instruments that the dictatorship has used to subdue the villagers in those places. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, the Armed Forces military dullness will be proven once again at the fraudulent elections. The Armed Forces cannot perpetuate fraud everywhere in the country, regardless of how many military operations they set up. No matter how much repression they may implement, the Salvadoran people will repudiate the elections because people are aware that those elections are for war, in contrast with the desire for peace of the have-not masses.

The Salvadoran people want a negotiated solution to the conflict as soon as possible. The Salvadoran people have seen how the FMLN seeks to find that solution and how the government, the Army High Command, and other warmongering sectors prefer the military solution. Hence, the people's repudiation awaits these fraudulent war elections. No Armed Forces High Command military operation, repression, bombing, or indiscriminate capture will prevent rejection by the people who truly want peace and who are willing to conquer it even if it means continuing the war.

Elections 'Doomed to Failure'

PA1003124089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0013 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 19 March elections will worsen the war. The elections are very unimportant because they do not contribute at all to dialogue and a political solution. Rather, they are elections to increase the war and deepen social injustice and the already serious economic crisis.

Only PDC [Christian Democratic Party], ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], and the Armed Forces High Command are interested in these elections in order to [word indistinct] their dirty war and, above all, in order to emerge from the isolation in which they find themselves due to their intransigence and their rejection of the FMLN proposal and the efforts by various Salvadoran [word indistinct] sectors.

It is evident and necessary for the PDC and the High Command to prevail based on fraud, in view of their extreme incapability and political weakness. They are desperately trying to hold on to the power they feel is escaping them. Not only are these elections questioned, but they are also invalidated and doomed to failure. Nobody believes they are the alternative or solution; on the contrary, they believe these are elections for war.

The FMLN proposed a dialogue, and that is the alternative for achieving a solution to the conflict. Today the possibilities for peace are becoming [words indistinct]. We must advance much more, and [word indistinct] because first of all, the people have the right to reject these war elections. Second, the people have the right to deepen the struggle in order to achieve peace.

In order to make this legitimate aspiration possible, we must carry out intense organizational political activities—person to person, house to house, in the factories, in the workplaces—explaining that these elections will be fraudulent and will only increase war and repression. The only solution is unity, organization, and the mobilization of the entire people using every possible means of struggle and by carrying out an intense propaganda campaign with the use of [word indistinct], fliers, [word indistinct], banners, and placards throughout the country so we can hear one single cry, one single decision: Do not vote on 19 March.

The people will turn 19 March into an act of rejection of the warmongering PDC and the ARENA assassins. To not vote on 19 March means to reject social injustice and murders. To not vote on 19 March means to support the FMLN's peace alternative, to say no to the corruption and war that is represented by 19 March.

'Indefinite' Transport Strike To Begin 15 Mar

PA1003123089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0045 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command in El Salvador on 9 March; (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti at 1200 GMT and San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL at 1212 GMT on 10 March broadcast identical versions of this communique]

[Text] Whereas:

1. Since the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] released its proposal to turn the elections into a contribution to peace, an intense series of political debates have begun in our country. As a result of those debates, the chance of achieving peace has improved significantly, because the warmongering positions have been weakened and the need to attain a negotiated political solution to the war has become increasingly clear. That solution should lead us to a peace with justice and dignity.

2. The government, the Armed Forces, and the Nationalist Republican Alliance are determined to hold elections on 19 March, thus trying to reduce the chance of attaining peace. Those elections will only worsen the war.

Both parties [as heard] and the elections themselves have been weakened. In addition, Army fraud is certain. The Armed Forces want to support their counterinsurgency plan. For that reason, all the people must reject the elections so we can continue struggling to attain a peaceful, negotiated solution to the war.

3. The Salvadoran people repudiate the 19 March elections and the FMLN must support that feeling. For that reason, we called on the people to refrain from voting and to make the voting null and void as a way to keep alive the chance of implementing our peace proposal.

In view of the above, and in order to support the people's rejection of the 19 March elections, the FMLN resolves:

To decree a national transportation strike in all of the country's roads and cities as of 0000 on 15 March. It will be an indefinite transportation strike. We call on all drivers to strictly abide by the strike; we call on all our military units to guarantee the strict fulfillment of the strike; and we call on our people to support this measure by complying with it and by gathering information on those who do not abide by it so our units can proceed to sabotage their vehicles during or after the strike.

We make this announcement in advance so the people will be prepared and able to reduce—as much as possible—the inconvenience that the strike will bring.

The struggle for the FMLN peace proposal does not end on 19 March. There will be more chances to attain peace if we reject the 19 March elections. Refrain from voting. Make the voting null and void. Let us all abide by the strike and let us all mobilize to repudiate the elections.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

El Salvador, 9 March 1989

CD Confirms Participation in Elections

PA0903223189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2133 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Social Democratic leader Hector Oqueli today said that the leftist Democratic Convergence [CD] of El Salvador will participate in the 19 March presidential elections despite the guerrillas' call for citizens not to vote or to void their ballots.

The guerrillas on Wednesday urged citizens to "abstain" from voting or to void their ballots and postponed a possible dialogue with the government until after the elections.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) revealed its position through a communique after it received no response from the government regarding its proposal for talks to negotiate a possible end to the war.

Hector Oqueli said that the CD "is ready" to participate in the elections, in which 1.8 million Salvadorans will elect a successor for Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Oqueli said that the CD has decided to "persevere and to participate to the end" in the elections. "We will not urge our rank and file not to vote," Oqueli stated.

Two of the three parties that make up the CD—namely, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) and the Social Christian Peoples Movement (MPSC)—will join the Revolutionary Democratic Front, a political ally of the guerrillas.

The MNR and the MPSC, together with the Social Democratic Party, founded the CD 1 year ago and nominated Guillermo Ungo and Reni Roldan as their presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Opinion polls conducted by private institutions place the CD in third place among the voters, following the ruling Christian Democratic Party. Meanwhile, the right-wing National Republican Alliance (ARENA) remains in first place.

Electoral Council President Favors Dialogue

PA0903175089 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Isabel Ruiz]

[Text] Central Electoral Council [CCE] President Ricardo Perdomo said yesterday on the "Good Morning" program that he favors dialogue between waging factions to find a peaceful solution to the conflict:

[Begin recording] Regrettably, the election campaign has prevented—because of selfish party interests and a desire to show off—the arrival of a quick, urgent, definite, and concrete decision to sit down to talk with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. I believe we need to do this; we must talk and discuss this. We must see if the FMLN is sincere or if it is part of a trap. When I watch the regional and world outlook, I see the whole world turning to peace. Great efforts toward detente are being made between the great powers; military antagonism is being replaced by economic cooperation—the great powers already understand this. The revolutionary movements throughout the world, especially in Latin America, may be orphaned by their traditional sponsors. This is a reality. [end recording]

Perdomo invited the political parties to join in the decision to postpone the elections if necessary:

[Begin recording] I ask the political parties for this last-ditch effort to request the CCE to move the election date to 31 March, which is still within the constitutional period, and the CCE is empowered to act on this request. If there is still a political will to seek, through some type of dialogue, to minimize the approaching confrontation or at least the threats, it might serve to prevent the suffering of all Salvadorans in a war. [end recording]

Perdomo called upon political parties to stop hurling insults in their political campaigning, because he could fine political parties that continue this practice. He said that the CCE has thus far issued 1.7 milllion voting cards. Perdomo also said 6,500 polling stations will be installed.

'Criminal Policy' on Vaccination Day Scored

PA0903144789 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Benjamin Valdez [Salvadoran health minister], minister of malnutrition in the country, following the same criminal policy, has shamelessly said that the checkpoints established by the high command's gorillas, which have prevented the vaccination of thousands of children in our country, were just part of a very small incident. A woman was also wounded in Meanguera by troops of Military Detachment No 4 during their operation to prevent the vaccinations in the country's eastern region. The death of more than 400 children a week from malnutrition is no small thing. Rather, it is cause for the people's rebellion.

On that day and at the site of the events, UNICEF representatives in our country confirmed the criminal actions of Military Detachment No 4 against the general population in Morazan Department. We call on this UN agency and the other humanitarian and human rights organizations to confirm the facts and pressure the government to respect human rights in El Salvador. We call on all our people to increase the struggle for a dialogue, for negotiations, just as our vanguard, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has proposed.

It is because of these frequent human rights violations that the Salvadoran people reject and repudiate the 19 March elections. The people are now mobilizing and demanding daily that the government accept the FMLN peace proposal so the elections will be a true contribution to peace. The Salvadoran people are not willing to participate in another election fraud.

All these cowardly actions are the result of the Armed Forces' weakness and inability to halt the guerrilla army. This has been shown by our crushing attack late on 7 March and early on 8 March in the country's eastern region. We inflicted 56 casualties on the troops of the Morazan, Leon, and Jucuaran Battalions. Our units also (?damaged) their helicopters [words indistinct]. As a result of their incompetence, the dictatorship's Armed

Forces vent their fury on the unarmed civilian population, but all our people are preparing to fight these troops and defeat the puppet dictatorship once and for all.

8 Mar Commentary Urges Election Postponement

PA0903034389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Station commentary: "The Duarte and U.S. Counterproposal: A Clumsy Counterinsurgency and Election Maneuver]

[Text] A month after the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] had presented its peace proposal, Duarte made a counterproposal that proposed a 1-month postponement of the elections, a unilateral cease-fire, and the recognition of the Armed Forces as the only army.

Thus, Duarte was suddenly changing his speech, leaving behind his initial and repeated rejections and hesitation.

The Bush administration calling for Duarte's attention because of his emphatic initial rejection of the FMLN initiative reinforced the rumors that the surprising change in President Duarte's attitude was more than casual.

A WASHINGTON POST report uncovered the mystery. In its 4 March edition, THE WASHINGTON POST noted that the counterproposal had been drafted with the participation of the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. At the same time, this showed a change in the Bush administration's attitude—in the beginning, it was favorable to the peace proposal; today, its resolute meddling and intervention could cause the continuation and intensification of the war by closing the doors to a political solution to the conflict.

The objective of the counterproposal was to isolate the Nationalist Republican Alliance and reject the FMLN peace proposal in an attempt to wipe away the political success and credibility gained by the FMLN at the local and international levels with its peace proposal. The counterproposal also sought to favor the Christian Democratic Party at the elections, preparing the conditions for the Army to prepare for the electoral fraud in favor of the ruling party.

The well-advertised unilateral cease-fire decreed by the Armed Forces served this purpose. The Armed Forces had always refused to adopt this kind of measure as evidence of flexibility and had always demanded from the FMLN a unilateral, final cease-fire with no negotiation, which in political and military terms means surrender.

Despite all this, the FMLN saw positive elements in the Salvadoran Government counterproposal, especially the point referring to dialogue. Thus, we proposed an immediate meeting with the executive and legislative branches to go beyond a simple meeting. In other words, to negotiate and reach specific agreements. The FMLN proposed to hold this meeting on 3-4 March. However, there was no answer. The counterproposal is more an election maneuver with a counterinsurgency view rather than a true negotiation effort to find reasonable and just solutions.

Reaffirming the seriousness of our proposal, the FMLN calls on grass-roots sectors and all Salvadoran people to support the postponement of the elections until 15 September, the date when the elections could be held with the assurance they will be clean elections with the highest amount of people's participation, as an authentic solution to the conflict.

The discredited 19 March elections will only further intensify the conflict, will not stop the social explosion, and will eventually provoke the intensification of the war.

Rebel Radio on Mayors' Resignations, Elections

PA0903032489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The government's local representation in the country's various cities continues to crumble. Over half of the country's municipalities have been left without municipal authorities.

With the resignation of the mayor of San Antonio de la Cruz, Chalatenango Department, a total of 133 mayors have resigned. That means over half of the country's municipalities have been left without government representatives.

We wonder: What kind of elections do political parties intend to conduct if half of the country's municipalities are ungovernable?

The government's crisis, however, is not only expressed at a municipal level. The power vacuum is felt at all levels.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] presented its peace proposal over 1 month ago. More recently, the FMLN proposed that government authorities meet on 7-8 March, but we have not had any response from the government.

Do we not have a president in this country? Do we not have a Legislative Assembly? It seems to us that neither of the two branches wants to make a decision and prefer to waste a great opportunity to attain peace.

The regime is not capable of holding local power anymore; much less, it cannot solve its own crisis. What can such a regime offer for the 19 March elections? It can only offer the same thing previous regimes have offered: war, repression, and misery.

That is why the people are demonstrating against elections for war. People are demonstrating because they want peace with social justice.

Recent FMLN Military Activities Reported

Coprefa Reports Actions

PA0503033189 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, in San Salvador; date not given]

[Excerpts] Nine terrorists were killed and 15 wounded during various operations against Salvadoran Army soldiers between 28 February and 3 March. These rebel operations were carried out during the cease-fire proposed by the Armed Forces. Likewise, the Army reports that it confiscated 27 rifles, 5 automatic handguns, 2 grenade launchers, 2 machineguns, more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition, 45 fragmentation grenades, 30 booby traps, 200 yards of detonating wire, and materiel for the fabrication of bombs.

During the same period, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] terrorists killed 7 peasants, kidnapped 6, and injured 14 others with their bombs. The killings and kidnappings were carried out because the victims refused to collaborate with the subversive organizations. Meanwhile, the National Guard has reported that a group of rebels kidnapped peasant Crescencio Davis in Nuevo Eden Canton, San Luis, La Paz Department. According to his family, Davis was kidnapped on Thursday night and his whereabouts are unknown.

In addition, today at 0340 FMLN rebels harassed members of the Civil Defense in Cuyultitan, La Paz Department. No casualties were reported. [passage omitted] FMLN terrorists harassed two military posts in eastern El Salvador. The first attack against 3d Infantry Brigade soldiers occurred on Las Mesas Hill, Sesori, San Miguel Department. Meanwhile, Military Detachment No 4 troops were harassed on Alto del Aguacate Hill, Corinto Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. No casualties were reported. National Guardsmen protecting (El Tamagas) Canton, Tejutepeque Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department were also harassed. As a result of the action, three guardsmen were wounded.

All these FMLN terrorist activities against the civilian population are showing the Salvadoran people and the world that the FMLN does not want peace. The Armed Forces has stopped all military and counterinsurgency operations throughout the country, thus proving that it supports the peacemaking efforts; however, the Marxist terrorists have increased their military activities, attacking military posts and inflicting death and injuries on the civilian population.

1-3 Mar Activities Cited

PA0503183489

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 4 March broadcasts approximately 35 minutes of reports on recent FMLN guerrilla actions.

The station provides an "official report" of FMLN urban guerrilla actions in San Salvador on 2 March, in which rebels reportedly attacked and partially destroyed the San Ramon Civil Defense headquarters. According to the report, the guerrillas "inflicted 9 casualties—4 dead and 5 wounded—on civil defense personnel" and "seized 2 rifles—a Garand M-1 and an M-14—plus ammunition."

As part of the same operation in the streets of San Salvador, the rebels reportedly attacked and "competely destroyed" the central telephone facilities station in Ciudad Satelite using light artillery and explosives. The report says that "5 minutes after the attack began, rebels clashed with units from the Belloso Battalion in the area known as San Roque. The military unit attempted to cut off the FMLN group operating in San Ramon, but the rebels managed to thwart their attempt to encircle the city and inflicted three casualties on the soldiers."

The report adds that the rebels also "clashed with another Belloso Battalion unit at Colonia San Miguel. The unit was moving to reinforce the troops that were being attacked." According to the report, "the rebels inflicted one casualty and thwarted the unit's attempt to reinforce the troops." It adds that rebel units, which were "in ambush position on the street that leads from Ayutuxtepeque to San Ramon in the vicinity of Colonia Florida, clashed with a 1st Infantry Brigade unit and seriously wounded three soldiers." The report states that "there was house-to-house fighting throughout Colonia La Atlanta" and that the rebels "inflicted three more casualties on the Belloso Batallion" in this sector.

The station says that FMLN guerrillas also "sabotaged three main electric towers and distributed propaganda in the San Antonio Abad sector, blew up three electric towers and destroyed a CAESS (Electrical Power Company of San Salvador) plant in the San Ramon sector, and blew up another tower on the road that leads from Ayutuxtepeque to San Ramon."

According to the report, fighting in the area between FMLN and Army forces lasted from 1730 to 1920. The report notes that the rebel actions in San Salvador "took place in the midst of a large Armed Forces operation in northern San Salvador in which the Army deployed thousands of soldiers from the Belloso Battalion, Guazapa Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, National Police, and Civil Defense personnel to continue its seige of the area and to maintain its repressive control of the residents." The report thanks "residents of San Antonio

Abad, San Ramon, and San Roque for bravely helping the rebels by offering them food and water and for cheering them with rebel slogans."

The station also reports actions by the Ernesto Che Guevara Urban commandos in San Salvador on 1 March. The report says FMLN "commandos placed explosives in a vehicle owned by the education minister, which was was parked in front of the minister's home on Bernari Street at 0730." At 1600, the commandos also reportedly blew up two electric towers in Colonia Miramonte of La Florida.

The radio adds that on 3 March in Santa Ana Department, rebels ambushed a 2nd Infantry Brigade foot patrol in La Carbonera, "inflicting four Army casualties."

The station also reports fighting in Morazan Department in which rebel units, at 0830 on 3 March, clashed with the Cacahuatique Battalion in the Adelines Canton of Guatajiagua. According to the report, an Army helicopter gunship appeared over the combat area after about 20 minutes of fighting and started to fire machineguns and rockets at rebel forces. The radio report adds that at 1030 an Army patrol, "proceeding from Botison Hill to report that troops had been attacked and to request more air support, was ambushed. Three helicopter gunships reached the area and machinegunned the communities of Sungano, El Varamillar, Colonia El Cingual, La Joya, and Los Villaltas in Guatajiagua." The station says that the rebels inflicted four casualties on the Cacahuatique Batallion during 5 hours of fighting.

The radio concludes with a report that "Army troops attacked an FMLN hospital in Cerro Las Mesas in Sesori, San Miguel Department, at 0630 on 2 March, endangering the lives of the patients there."

2-3 Mar Attacks Reported

PA0803050489

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 5 March broadcasts approximately 6 minutes of reports on FMLN actions.

The station reports that "guerrilla units attacked 6th Brigade positions at the turnoff to La Concordia on the Coastal Highway at 1900 on 2 March." It adds that the guerrillas sabotaged power lines and "ambushed three military vehicles traveling from San Marcos Lempa to Usulutan, inflicting four casualties."

According to a report from La Libertad Department, "clandestine guerrilla units sabotaged an electricity substation" on La Cumbre road, near Finca San Antonio, on 2 March.

The station reports that on 3 March, a "clandestine militia unit distributed propaganda at the San Francisco sugar mill" in Suchitoto Jurisdiction, and another unit distributed propaganda in Aguilares, San Salvador Department. It adds that "another unit burned 30 manzanas of sugarcane in the San Francisco sugar mill."

Rebel Weekly Report

PA0603143689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos presents its weekly military report:

During this last week of clashes, especially in San Salvador and other key points of the country, our FMLN inflicted 263 casualties on the puppet Salvadoran Armed Forces, including 5 officers.

During this week we seized 12 rifles, 8 cartridge belts for M-60 machineguns, 17 full military field kits, (?10) backpacks, 3 Claymore mines, a military communications radio, much ammunition, and other materiel.

We damaged four helicopters last week. We damaged one in Perquin, one in Jocoaitique, one in Nueva Concepcion, and a fourth at the San Salvador Volcano. In addition, we destroyed three military trucks.

Among our attacks on the energy system this week, we sabotaged an energy substation in La Libertad Department, a CAES [Electric Light Company of El Salvador] plant in San Salvador, and 127 power poles.

Also this week, we sabotaged a communications center in Ciudad Satelite, a Radio Cuscatlan repeater on El Picacho Hill in San Salvador, and the telephone line linking Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapan with San Salvador. In addition, we destroyed three telephone junction boxes, one Salvadoran National Railroad train in San Vicente Department, and a section of the railroad tracks in Usulutan Department. We also attacked the Mecafe farm in the town of Nejapa.

Similarly, we report that among our efforts to weaken the local powers of the dictatorship, we forced the resignations of the mayors of the towns of San Francisco Gotera, Torola, San Antonio del Mosco, Villa El Triunfo, Cacaotera, Arambala, and Carolina. We also forced the resignations of the municipal councilmen of the towns of Usulutan, San Juan Tepesontes, Torola, San Antonio del Mosco, and San Cristobal.

We also want to note that FMLN urban commandos carried out attacks in San Salvador this past week. We also want to mark the incursion into San Ramon and the clashes in several San Salvador streets with Belloso Battalion troops.

Among the attacks carried out this week, we want to stress those on the Treasury Police barracks in Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango Department, on the Military Detachment No 3 headquarters, and on the National Police station in Santa Rosa de Lima City.

We also attacked Pantera Battalion troops in Suchitoto. In addition, the FMLN attacked a military communications base on El Picacho Hill near the San Salvador Volcano.

Sabotage Causes Power Outage

PA0803163589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report by Nelson Guillermo Cordoba]

[Text] Because of the damage the rebels have caused to the energy system in San Rafael Cedros, Cuscatlan, and elsewhere, there was a power outage in San Vicente Department that lasted from 1915 to 2125 on 7 March.

In addition, judicial authorities identified the body of Antonio Gomez Rosales, 18, who was killed accidentally when he stepped on a Claymore mine at km 63, El Carrizo, on the Inter-American Highway. The explosion seriously injured Jose Alirio Rivas, 20, who was taken to the Military Hospital. The two men were members of a 2d Cavalry Battalion group on patrol in the area.

It has also been reported that Marcos Antonio Rivera, 26, a member of the 5th Infantry Brigade, was killed accidentally while handling an M-67 hand grenade. Although authorities provided no additional information, it was learned that the explosion also injured six more soldiers, who were taken to the Military Hospital in San Salvador.

6-7 Mar Military Actions

PA0803232689

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 8 March carries 4 minutes of military reports, including FMLN sabotage actions and clashes between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Army conducted in San Salvador and other regions of the country between 6 and 7 March.

The first report states cites an FMLN urban guerrilla communique saying that urban units sabotaged a Toyota car dealer in San Salvador at 1800 on 6 March.

The same report says FMLN guerrilla and clandestine units sabotaged a power tower in Apastepeque Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department, at 0100 on 7 March.

The next report states that "sources of the Salvadoran Army 5th Infantry Brigade reported that soldier Marco Antonio Renderos was killed this morning when a mine went off inside his garrison. The military report added that seven other soldiers were wounded in that incident."

The last report says FMLN guerrilla units ambushed 5th Infantry Brigade troops with three Manuel Jose Arce mines on the Pan-American Highway near El Carrizo Canton, Apastepeque Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department, at 0707 on 7 March, inflicting five casualties "on the 5th Infantry Brigade troops. Vehicle traffic along that section of the Pan-American Highway was paralyzed for 1 hour. The five casualties include one sergeant."

54 Army Casualties 7-8 Mar

PA0903004589 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2306 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Domestic and international media, workers, rebel comrades: Radio Farabundo Marti will read the official report of a military operation held at our eastern Francisco Sanchez Front. We repeat: We will read an official report on the successful military operation held at our eastern Francisco Sanchez Front during the final hours of 7 March and first hours of 8 March. The military report as follows:

The operation began at 1645 on 7 March [words indistinct] ...3d Infantry Brigade, and Morazan Battalion of Military Detachment No 4. The operation was as follows:

1. There was an encircling maneuver against a Leon Battalion company stationed in La Ceiba, Carolina Municipality, and an attack against another company of the same battalion stationed in Carolina. Several of the soldiers in the surrounded company escaped, but the rest were annihilated. The enemy suffered 25 casualties, including the company commander. Our units also seized an M-79 grenade launcher, grenades for M-60 machineguns [as heard], knapsacks, and other war materiel. The troops were given air support throughout the night by helicopters, A-37 Dragonfly attack jets, and O-2 Cessna reconaissance planes, also called push-pull planes. The air support was neutralized by our antiaircraft units. [Words indistinct] air support by criminal (?Bustillo) caused crop destruction and possible casualties [words indistinct].

At 1800 our men began an attack against the remaining Leon Battalion companies stationed in Ciudad Barrios and its surroundings. Our men attacked the enemy posts in La Casona, La Torrecilla, El Cementerio, El Reten, Llano El Angel, and Loma Castebas. Our forces captured all these positions and entered as far as Ciudad Barrios' central park. The attack was made with people's artillery and rifles, and we inflicted 11 casualties. We also seized

plates for 60-mm mortars, 5.56-mm cartridges, knapsacks, and additional war materiel. We also attacked an Arce Battalion company, inflicting two more casualties to the enemy.

3. [Number as heard] At 1800 on 7 March, our rebel units began an attack against Morozan Battalion units in Cacaopera. The clash lasted 8 hours, and the enemy suffered 10 casualties, including 2 NCO's and 1 radio operator. During the attack, our men destroyed several M-16 rifles and a PRC-77 radio and seized war materiel. The enemy requested air support and was given support from Cacaopera and San Francisco Gotera with 105-mm artillery that fell on populated areas.

4. Also at 1800 on 7 March, we began an attack on a Morazan Battalion position at Osicala. The attack was carried out with people's artillery and rifles. The enemy was dislodged from its positions and sustained six casualties: three killed and three injured. We also seized an M-16 rifle and other war materiel. Those troops received futile support from helicopter gunships.

5. Various rebel units and detachments carried out political activities in the eastern part of the country. In addition, we attacked cavalry troops in El Triunfo, Usulutan, but we do not yet have any confirmed report on casualties. Guerrilla and militia units also took control of a stretch of the Pan-American Highway at a point near Hacienda Jalapa. Barricades were set up near San Luis de la Reina, between Sesori and Chapeltique, and between Chapeltique and Ciudad Barrios, and power towers were sabotaged in San Miguel Department.

Rebel units and clandestine militias took control of San Antonio, San Isidro, San Simon, and Gualococti in Morazan Department. Our guerrilla units sought out enemy troops in these places but they were not to be found; they had already fled in complete disarray.

Our guerrilla units also took control of and carried out propaganda activities in Lolotiquillo, El Tablon, and Gualindo in the eastern part of Morazan Department.

6. At 0900 on 8 March, three helicopters unloaded troops in Porton Rojo and Laguna Seca in the area of Torola. Those units were attacked, and one of the helicopters was damaged. The troops that had disembarked were attacked at 0930.

7. In total, in this maneuver our forces inflicted 54 dead and wounded on troops of the 3d Brigade and Military Detachment No 4. Those troops were dislodged and pursued.

[Passage indistinct] from the Francisco Sanchez Front, and is dated 8 March 1989.

3 Aircraft Reportedly Damaged

PA1003123289 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Interview with "Comrade Julio" of the FMLN's antiaircraft units by unidentified station announcer; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Comrade Julio, what was your role in the defeat of the government air support after the attack on the El Refugio base in Chalatenango, where we inflicted 42 casualties on the 4th Infantry Brigade? Tell us about this new guerrilla victory.

[Comrade Julio] Our General Command gave us the mission to attack the El Refugio base. There were two companies stationed at the base. After we had fully completed the mission, 14 aircraft appeared near El Refugio, including two [words indistinct], and a C-47; the rest were helicopters.

When we saw all these aircraft, we ordered an antiaircraft device to be readied. We then began firing on the helicopters. The result of this antiaircraft firing was that one light plane, one helicopter gunship, and one transport helicopter were damaged.

[Announcer] What else can you tell our people and our antiaircraft units?

[Comrade Julio] Our people and our antiaircraft units should rejoice over this victory.

Colonel Comments on 7 Mar Rebel Battle Claims

PA0903161689 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Interview with Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Vargas] What happened last night was not a series of harassments but some skirmishes, specifically north of San Miguel, north of Carolina, a sector of Carolina, San Antonio del Mosco, in the western zone, near the international political border with Honduras. Fighting took place against terrorist columns coming from the north toward the populated areas of Carolina, San Luis de la Reina, and Ciudad Barrios. This is mainly what happened last night, in addition to some more minor actions that took place in the Osicala and Sesori areas. However, we do not consider these particularly alarming, and only two soldiers were fairly seriously wounded and six were slightly wounded, which is not of great importance. This is what we can report to you on what took place in the northern zones of San Miguel Department and Osicala in Morazan Department.

[Reporter] How can you explain that the guerrillas are reporting 42 casualties, as it did for its attack against the Santa Rosa de Lima base, when the results were perhaps negligible for them?

[Vargas] I believe that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] continues to spin tales about imaginary victories to hide accounts of the dead and wounded in order to boost their people's morale. However, we act responsibly toward the soldiers, and we cannot hide the number of dead and wounded from their relatives, because we have a moral obligation as professional soldiers. Secondly, the FMLN reported 42 Army casualties and we did not even have that many soldiers in the area.

We are telling this to the Salvadoran people so that they will not let themselves be influenced by this kind of FMLN propaganda, which creates confusion and is falsely triumphant. This kind of report is false. Right now we do not have a report on terrorist casualties. We will be able to determine this in the morning when we comb the area. We do have two seriously wounded soldiers and another six soldiers with slight wounds. This is our casualty toll; there were no deaths.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the offices of municipal mayors?

[Vargas] No. The heavy fighting, the major fighting, took place when they were trying to get across the Torola River from Honduran territory to Salvadoran territory in the northern San Miguel area. This is in the La Fragua and La Ceibita area, two isolated cantons in the far north. There we do not have any ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] or mayor's offices. Close-range fighting took place until about 0200 or 0300. The guerrillas always withdraw to Honduran territory and to northern Morazan, where our units are now mobilized to find the terrorists and inflict as much damage on them as possible.

[Reporter] Colonel, considering what is happening in the northern region of these departments, could you guarantee to the people who live there that they will be able to participate in the 19 March elections?

[Vargas] We are definitely in a position to guarantee elections throughout the eastern region, specifically San Miguel. If election facilities are not available somewhere, it will be because the Central Electoral Council [CCE] has made that decision.

This does not mean that we will not be attacked by the terrorists; it means that such attacks will not be significant. We have the military capability to protect all municipalities in San Miguel and La Union Departments and in Morazan, where the CCE will have voting booths. We have done this in the past and we will be able to do so now, although we have limited resources and growing needs. We have to do so, because it is our responsibility and because the democratic process means that all the people have a voice in decisions.

FMLN Denies Attack on Spanish Embassy Workers

PA0703161489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has sent a letter to Pedro Bermejo, Spanish ambassador to El Salvador. In the letter, the FMLN General Command asserts that FMLN fighters did not rape two Spanish Embassy secretaries and that no FMLN unit was in the area where the assault occurred on 25 February. No FMLN fighter has ever been involved in this kind of action, the letter adds.

The letter also says: Our leaders and fighters have always held the Spanish people and Government in high regard. It is unreasonable to think FMLN members would behave in such a crude manner, the letter adds.

In the letter, the FMLN respectfully suggests the Spanish Government demand that the Salvadoran Armed Forces absolve the FMLN from all responsibility in this incident. The letter notes that the Armed Forces, the paramilitary forces known as Civil Defense units, and the security forces on countless occasions have been responsible for outrages similar to the rape of the two Spanish Embassy officials.

Party Leader Released; Comments on Arrest

PA0903174589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] Balmore Arevalo, leader of the Bread, Land, Work, and Freedom Movement [MPTTL], whom security officers arrested when he was walking on 15 September Street in La Candelaria neighborhood, held a news conference after being released. He said he was charged with being a member of a clandestine organization of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. He was kept under arrest at Rosales Hospital because he had been shot in the right arm, a wound Arevalo said was inflicted by security officers:

[Begin recording] Yes, I did run, but I was shot by the National Police. I ran probably because I was scared, not because I had anything to hide. I decided to run because I saw the policemen were too close—maybe I got scared. The bad thing is that I was shot at from behind, which is how I was wounded. [end recording]

According to the MPTTL, this arrest is part of the repression campaign against peoples movements. The MPTTL demonstrated several times outside Rosales Hospital to demand the leader's release.

Guatemala

Cerezo Holds News Conference on U.S. Trip

PA0803150489 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Report on news conference with President Vinicio Cerezo in Guatemala City on 7 March—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Cerezo returned yesterday from Washington, where he spent a little over 1 week on a visit that included a meeting with new U.S. President George Bush. The Guatemalan head of state said that he also met with other U.S. Administration officials and members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Cerezo said that their discussion focused primarily on bilateral issues. He summarized the discussion as follows:

[Cerezo] "We discussed amounts of economic aid and the dates already approved by the U.S. Congress for disbursement. We discussed routine matters concerning military aid and requested a small increase of $2 million. We also discussed development programs handled through the U.S. Agency for International Development, AID.

"I made the trip because there is a new administration. We wanted to know its positions on Central American issues and, since this was an opportunity for a Central American to be in the United States, we particularly wanted to express our opinions about the spirit that prevailed during the Salvadoran summit.

"We also exchanged viewpoints on certain matters related to the peace process that will, of course, concern the United States and us in the near future.

"In the United States, there are also international or multinational organizations, and it was important for us to visit them to brief them on the peace process, the development of the democratic process in Guatemala, and to present various ideas and positions on how to handle some Latin American problems.

"As you must have heard, we proposed [at these meetings] a possible American summit involving all presidents of the continent, including, of course, the Caribbean and Central America areas, to discuss certain topics of general interest such as the Latin American foreign debt and the drug trafficking problem and to learn about all regional dialogue processes in the various regions that have been recognized as areas of shared interest.

"Of course, we visited the official OAS headquarters, but we also visited nongovernment organizations where we lectured on the development of democratization in Guatemala and in Central America in general.

"We visited institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and exchanged viewpoints regarding the role that it should play as the Latin American bank, given its experience with the foreign debt and its provision of credits for development.

"As for the U.S. Administration per se, we talked with people who will head the U.S. [National] Security Council; with the secretary of state, of course; with Vice President Quayle; and with President Bush. As for the Congress—the House of Representatives and the Senate—we talked with both political parties, emphasizing the view we first presented 1 and ½ years ago to the United States; namely, that we feel it is advisable for all U.S. foreign policy, particularly with regard to Central America, to be bipartisan in nature."

The Guatemalan president denied that he had received a very cool reception from President Bush, as the foreign press had reported.

[Cerezo] "The only coldness there was the weather. The weather was very cold and bad. The meeting with President Bush was cordial. President Bush has a gentle and friendly personality. We had a good discussion of our views. Perhaps some persons may feel... [changes thought] I really do not know why the foreign press thought the meeting was cold. The meeting was very private. I have no idea if the White House gave any statement or report on it. I do not think so. The meeting was in-depth and objective. We discussed three basic things: First, we discussed the Bush administration's stated mistrust that the [Central American presidents'] agreements made in El Salvador will be kept. These agreements complement the spirit of... [changes thought] They complement the Esquipulas II agreements. This is something that must always be perfectly clear—namely, the U.S. Administration's distrust in principle. Second, we conveyed our belief that future events and circumstances will necessarily lead to compliance with the agreements, or the lack of political commitment to implement them will soon be apparent. Third, the U.S. Administration made an interesting statement in noting its interest in using diplomatic means to implement its foreign policy in Central America.

"For that reason we cannot describe the meeting as cold. On the contrary, it was very... [changes thought] We probably did not agree on some things. I would say we had different views on some things. We did not really try to reach an agreement this time. Instead, we had a talk. We believe that in the next few weeks the U.S. Government may develop a policy on the Salvadoran summit agreement."

The Guatemalan president will promote a summit of Latin American presidents to be held at the OAS headquarters.

[Cerezo] "We will officially propose that summit at the foreign ministers meeting that will be held in Venezuela soon. I do not know the exact date, but it will be soon.

We are thinking about holding the summit early next year. We are thinking of holding it in the medium term. It is not easy to organize a presidential summit. I believe the last Latin American summit was held in the 1960's in Punta del Este. It was in 1967, if I am not mistaken.

"The goal is not to have a broad political meeting. The goal of such a summit would be to state positions on topics that will have been reviewed earlier. We are going to propose a list of topics for discussion, which includes those we have already mentioned, which are: First, we will discuss the foreign debt problem and the need for an agreement between creditors and debtors; second, the drug trafficking problem; and third, the dialogue, peace, and democratization processes in Latin America."

Something new was revealed at the president's news conference. Cerezo mentioned a proposal made on behalf of the five Central American presidents to the U.S. Government regarding the relocation of the Nicaraguan rebels remaining in Honduras.

[Cerezo] "The comments I made in the United States are not just mine; rather, they represent the consensus among all the Central American presidents regarding the need to draft a plan that will allow the Nicaraguans who are part of a militarily organization and fighting abroad, or living in Honduras, to return to Honduras [as heard]. Of course, that would mean dismantling the contra organization or the Nicaraguan Resistance, as it is called. However, this will have to happen simultaneously with a political opening in Nicaragua that will permit the voluntary return of Nicaraguans who wish to return. If the contra organization is disbanded, the contras may choose to go elsewhere. One of those places may include... [changes thought] The contras would not be leaving as an organization or en masse but individually. Most likely, there will be an effort to convince them to return to Nicaragua to work.

"The Salvadoran agreement contains a fundamental aspect. It says that the contras' mobilization [as heard] or repatriation will be voluntary. This is a very important matter, because we are not going to make them go to Guatemala, Costa Rica, or the United States. Instead, we are going to urge that military organization to become a political organization that will participate in Nicaragua's political life peacefully and without weapons. The way for this to happen is by creating a political opening in Nicaragua so the contras can return to that country."

"My personal opinion is that this will not be accomplished from one day to the next. I gave this opinion in the United States. The plan alone will require 90 days, as it has to be approved and implemented. This takes time. As was the case in Guatemala and El Salvador, the Nicaraguan political process will also take time, because some people are slow in gaining enough confidence to return after they have been involved in armed activities.

"Perhaps the point on which we and the U.S. Administration differed most was the manner in which compliance with the agreement would be implemented. We differed because we have different perspectives. The Guatemalan position is that reality will force the Central American countries to comply with the agreement. Without the international community, Nicaragua cannot make economic and social process. For this reason, Nicaragua cannot attack the international community, especially the Central American countries. In addition, and as is obvious in the peace agreement, the basic interest of the Central American presidents is to reduce conflicts and tension in the area through democratization and political openings. We believe this will be accomplished, because we require it and because we have made the decision to do so.

"In principle the U.S. Administration is not confident that the agreement will be fulfilled. They want to see compliance actually take place. The U.S. perspective is different from ours, but both Guatemala and the United States believe—we discussed the issue, and we all agreed—that forthcoming events will show us if the agreement is being kept. Obviously, we will doubt there will be compliance if a political opening does not occur in Nicaragua within the next 3 months. The possibilities for free and open Nicaraguan elections will be nonexistent if full political participation is not allowed within 6 months to a year. We would have compliance problems if this did not occur, and the plan would fail. Naturally, if this occurs, Nicaragua would be isolated from the international community, because we would no longer trust Nicaragua. The same thing would happen if we do not devise a plan for the contras' demobilization, or if we devised one and Honduras did not want to comply with it. This would lead to a strong reaction as the agreement has already brought about some points of convergence among those involved."

Cerezo said he had cleared up a few false impressions in the United States about the supposed dominance of the Guatemalan Executive Branch over the Armed Forces or vice versa.

[Cerezo] "In Guatemala, the extreme right wing maintains that we manipulate the Army. They have used this argument to promote fear in certain groups, saying that we are forcing our ideology on the Army and manipulating it. In the United States, it is exactly the opposite. A few liberal human rights organizations in the United States insist that the Army manipulates us. [Cerezo laughs] None of the two theories is true.

"I was told in the United States that, if it was true the Army was trying to manipulate the government, the Guatemalan Army should not be helped as it was not contributing to democracy. We explained that the Army did not manipulate us. There are certain realities in Guatemala, and taking them into account we had requested that our obsolete weapons and equipment be replaced. We did not, however, request that our weapons

be increased. We requested three things: 1. an A-37 Dragonfly attack jet, because there was an accident and we lost one; 2. new rifles, because our old rifles are starting to fall apart; and 3. parts for the helicopters that have been grounded because of constant use. I believe that we achieved a high degree of understanding and that our future discussions will be easier. I must point out that we were discussing the authorization for buying these items and that these items are not included in the U.S. military aid package. As for the rifles, the administration can authorize this purchase without the need for Congress to approve it, although neither the administration nor I are interested in making a purchase against the wishes of the U.S. Congress."

The president confirmed that he will meet with Juan Luis Bosch, president of the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations [CACIF].

[Cerezo] "The reason for the meeting is to discuss the privatization of government-owned enterprises. And our answer is one we have given before: For the time being, we have only decided to privatize Aviateca [Guatemalan Aviation Enterprise]. Aviateca will become a corporation in which the state will hold some stock, while a majority of the stock will be sold to the public during specific periods of time. Some airlines have already expressed interest in becoming part of this new airline. They would buy its stock just as they would buy the stock of any company on the stock exchange.

"The objective of this, besides keeping Aviateca as an airline flying the national flag, is to create a private firm, to expand it, and, in turn, to offer better service to the Guatemalan people.

"At this moment, there is no other specific decision on the privatization of other enterprises. We have never, for example, talked about privatizing INDE [National Institute of Electrification]. As for GUATEL [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise], we have talked about expanding its services. We consider GUATEL important not only to the country's security but also to Guatemala's economic development. GUATEL must be expanded, but the state must participate in running the enterprise."

President Cerezo, who had his Public Relations Secretary Claudia Arenas Bianchi by his side during the entire news conference, commented on the CACIF's absence from the ongoing national dialogue:

[Cerezo] "I believe everyone should participate in these kinds of talks. If you study the criteria in the Esquipulas agreements regarding the national reconciliation commissions, however, you would find that these commissions are formed for the benefit of those organizations that have traditionally lacked an established mechanism to express their views. And if there is an organization that has ways to express its views, it is the CACIF.

"I therefore believe CACIF can make itself heard even though it is not directly involved in the dialogue. I believe the national dialogue could go on without CACIF's participation.

"What Mr Juan Luis Bosch probably said about CACIF is that he has been involved in internal discussions with his member organizations, which would not like to see themselves... [changes thought] The CACIF member organizations are not sure that participating in the dialogue is the best thing. That is all I know in this regard."

Cerezo commented on the absence of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity from the national dialogue, the Esquipulas II agreements, and certain CACIF statements in this regard:

[Cerezo] "Everyone likes to quote Esquipulas II, but sometimes they do so without going into details. Esquipulas II calls for dialogue with political or social groups that have not had the opportunity to participate in talks with the government. When armed groups are involved, then they can only participate once they show their willingness to peacefully join this dialogue. Esquipulas II was very clear on this. All the presidents clearly know that minimum requirements must be met before direct talks between the government and armed groups begin. The government can decide not to recognize armed groups unless they say they want to participate in the legal political process. This is what Esquipulas II says.

"I believe there is a natural fear among CACIF members that they will find themselves sitting next to certain other groups in the dialogue, but this fear is perhaps unjustified. As the dialogue moves on and the commission's goodwill is seen—I believe the commission has proved to be very serious—I think CACIF will decide to take part at least in topics that are of interest to CACIF. The dialogue is structured in such a way that one can participate in direct discussions on specific topics—not necessarily in the whole dialogue. The doors have been kept open; anyone may sign up."

The Army does take part in the national dialogue according to Cerezo's own interpretation and despite opposition from certain groups.

[Cerezo] "It is important to first mention the argument of whether or not the Army is participating in these discussions. The Army is participating through the government, because we do not want them to be more Catholic than the pope. No one wants the Army to control our nation's destiny; we want the Army to share the government's responsibility. We want our nation's destiny to be in the hands of a government elected by the people. By expecting the Army to directly participate in the national dialogue, as a separate entity, we are falling into a trap that goes against the wishes of the Army and the president. If we fall into this trap, those who claim the Army works independently from the government will then say: There you have it. You see? The Army does whatever

it wants here. An Army member is allowed to represent the government in discussing a security issue. He is not allowed to represent the Army, because the Army is subordinated to the Guatemalan Government. In the past, for several years, the government had been subordinated to the Guatemalan Army. Now, however—as is the case in democratic systems—things are different.

"The Army will participate in discussing issues having to do with its specialty. It will express the Guatemalan Government's policy concerning issues such as security, refugees, and civil defense patrols—topics to which they will certainly have much to contribute. They will, and should, participate in these discussions on behalf of the government and not on behalf of their institution, because their institution is a part of the government."

The Army will investigate several death threats issued by the clandestine Jaguar Justice group, also known as the JJ, against a top GUATEL official, a General Customs Directorate [Direccion General de Aduanas] official, and a municipal leader in Guatemala's interior, whose names have not yet been revealed.

[Cerezo] "We are moving in the right direction. I sincerely believe we will soon begin a trial against all the people belonging to one or several organizations assuming the name of the JJ to commit their crimes. We have managed to prove that several cases attributed to the JJ have not had the same characteristics, which may indicate that people are using the JJ's name to hide their responsibility for crimes. Everyone assumes the crimes are committed by a repressive rightist group; yet there are cases under investigation that have led us to believe that these criminals have been using the name without necessarily belonging to that organization. We are not sure these specific threats against two [as heard] government officials were made by a criminal group. Of course, we will try to provide these officials with the utmost protection."

Cerezo also justified a recent decree increasing salaries for ministers, deputy ministers, and government institution directors. Thanks to this increase, some government officials will now earn as much as 6,000 quetzals a month.

[Cerezo] "In terms of salaries, we have raised government employees' salaries by over 120 percent before even considering increasing our ministers' salaries. We have decided to give the ministers a pay raise 3 years after having begun a series of salary increases for officials at other levels and a reclassification plan specifically aimed at guaranteeing employment and opening the possibility of a permanent raise.

"We have based our decision to raise ministers' salaries on the following criteria. If you look closely at the budget, we not only increased the ministers' official salaries but also decreased their unreported income [salarios confidenciales]. This way, ministers will have to pay more taxes; previously they did not pay taxes on unreported income. Other state institutions should follow suit. Officials should have an official salary that meets the needs of the position and visibly reflects all earned income. Previously, officials would declare they earned 2,000 pesos [currency as heard], but they actually made hundreds more in odd jobs done here and there. Now officials receive a good salary, which actually reflects what they make and is taxable. We want to make things clearer and more objective every day.

[Reporter] "[Question indistinct]

[Cerezo] "Clarity—yes, exactly. We want clarity in everything. We have been classifying most of the Presidency's expenses as general expenses, so they can be verified. Furthermore, we have decreased our use of unreported income, resorting to it only when absolutely necessary. We thus want to make things clearer. We could have not reported our income. The ministers could have kept on making 2,000 quetzals a month and claiming the rest as unreported income, as they did before. But we want to make things clearer little by little. It would be good for all institutions to follow suit."

The president denied that any public vehicles or other resources are being used to promote the presidential precandidacy of... [30-second break in reception]

[Cerezo] "It is easier to rent an automobile than use an official vehicle, look obviously guilty, and provide ammunition against the party. This is much more intelligent and less costly, politically speaking. In politics, the cost is not a problem of money but of popular appeal. Therefore, the earlier governments did these things because they intended to rig the elections. We have to win them."

Cerezo denied there is any division within the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] because of the dispute for the presidential nomination between Cabrera [foreign relations minister] and De Leon Schlotter [PDC leader].

[Cerezo] "It depends on what you call division, because there is varied participation, and it is obvious there is no...[changes thought] At least, they do not agree to support each other as candidates [Cerezo chuckles]. This does not necessarily mean there is division within the party but only that the party has options.

"It is interesting to look at this from another perspective. In a party where options exist, there are several leaders who can assume this responsibility. Other parties are left without any candidate if the secretary general disappears; and in other parties, the secretary general does not allow other candidates to exist, which is absolutely preposterous.

"These are parties based on a single personality; they therefore have no ideology or anything else except the interests of a single person. This is very serious. The truth is that in an active party, [word indistinct] there are

many. In (?our) party there can be more than three, four, or five who would be a lot better than the single options other political parties have [Cerezo chuckles]—and they can win almost any dispute, as you will see during the election campaign. This is not division. It is ability and healthy competition—and, naturally, someone has to win. I know you know who I hope will win, but that is... [Unidentified speakers interrupt Cerezo]"

Who will it be? Regarding the the discovery yesterday of the murder of watchmen at the Central Customs office and its relationship with the alleged theft of documents used for smuggling vehicles to and from Guatemala, Cerezo said:

[Cerezo] "We are very concerned about the customs problem, because it indicates that there is some other activity. We will find out if any policies or any other things were lost; this may be an indication that some other major crime is being planned, (?such) as the theft or illegal importation of vehicles. However, I am scheduled to meet today with the security people to give them pertinent instructions. This is one case we can surely solve; there is no problem."

Official Denies Distorting Rights Information

PA0803205989 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemalan Government spokesman Carlos Eugenio Anleu Corzo said that "the government has not manipulated any type of information whatsoever regarding UN resolutions, specifically with regard to the human rights situation in our country, which has yet to be discussed."

The Guatemalan presidency's deputy secretary of public relations responded this way to statements by Guatemalan Human Rights Commission (CDHG) delegates (in exile) who, during their stay in this country last week, accused the government of manipulating preliminary information emerging from the annual UN-sponsored [human rights] conference in Geneva.

According to CDHG delegates' statements, the government confused the Guatemalan people by saying that the United Nations had reaffirmed its confidence in the current administration by excluding Guatemala from the list of nations with regimes that violate human rights.

Anleu Corzo said: "The government has not engaged in any form of manipulation, as we have not made any statements whatsoever. We wish to make it clear that the information disseminated in Guatemala regarding UN deliberations originates from abroad."

Notwithstanding the government spokesman's statements, it should be noted that the initial reports in this country on the United Nations' elimination of Guatemala from the list of countries that have human rights violations were sent from Geneva, Switzerland by presidential advisor Julio Reginaldo Santos, thereby supporting the CDHG's claims that the government manipulates information.

RUOG Not To Participate 'Directly' in Talks

PA0503141589 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] The United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition, RUOG, will not participate "directly" in the national dialogue. This was decided yesterday following a meeting between RUOG leaders Rigoberta Menchu, Rolando Castillo Montalvo, and Frank La Rue and members of the National Reconciliation Commission, CNR. However, the three opposition leaders in exile said after the meeting that they were "satisfied" and convinced that "the door is open."

According to the CNR, although the RUOG will not participate "directly," its opinions will be heard through other means set forth in the regulations for the dialogue.

The RUOG leaders brought with them a document, which they said will be presented for the consideration of the groups participating in the dialogue. Menchu, Castillo, and La Rue stressed that one of their objectives is to give all the support they can to the grass-roots organizations participating in the dialogue.

Clandestine Group Threatens Officials

PA0503222989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Three Guatemalan Government officials were threatened with death today and warned to leave the country within 72 hours by the self-styled clandestine group Jaguar Justice (JJ), which is a group similar to the death squads.

The clandestine group left a communique at the Municipal Fire Department headquarters. The JJ is threatening a high-ranking official of the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise (GUATEL); the group accuses this official of having led GUATEL into bankruptcy and of taking all the goods of that state enterprise.

The JJ is also threatening an official at the Guatemalan customs office whom the JJ accuses of "directly participating in official corruption at all levels."

The JJ, which does not reveal the names of its victims, also threatened a departmental mayor who is accused of "having stolen all of the city's goods in complicity with his collaborators."

According to police reports, the clandestine group has killed over seven Guatemalans since its appearance at the beginning of 1989, the last one of which was peasant Luis Gonzalez Sotoj Castillo, who was killed on 3 March.

In its communique the JJ gives a 72-hour period for the three government officials to leave the country, or else they "will be killed."

An official source said the government's security forces are investigating the death threats to protect the possible targets and to find the members of the clandestine group.

MLN's Lopez Fuentes Forms New Party

PA0703033589 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Mar 89 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 March—General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, who recently resigned as the National Liberation Movement's [MLN] presidential precandidate, has reported he is forming the National Unified Movement [Movimiento de Unificacion Nacional], MUN, to participate in the upcoming 1990 elections. This event is more proof of the splintering of the right wing.

According to Lopez' statements to the domestic media, he withdrew from the MLN ranks because its leaders were indecisive. Deputy Juan Carlos Simons Solis, a "high-ranking" MLN leader, said that Lopez' attitude was a desperate one.

Yesterday Lopez Fuentes reported that small committees had been formed during the 9-month period in which he visited the country's interior. These committees have now proposed that a political party be formed and that they support him in the elections to be held next year, he added.

Lopez said lawyers are presently preparing the documents needed to present a proparty committee request [comite pro-partido] at the Citizens Registry Directorate. Despite the difficulties the project entails and based on the request, the committee will then proceed to enter the election campaign with strength.

At EL GRAFICO's request, Lopez Fuentes explained that MUN will take a moderate rightist position with a clear nationalist policy and will uphold the motto: "Security, honesty, and peace."

Lopez Fuentes said that people continue to be seriously concerned with the climate of insecurity prevailing in the country, excessive public spending, operation of unnecessary ministries, and other problems.

CERIGUA Cited on URNG Actions 2-4 Mar

PA0703172889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 6 Mar (AFP)—The Guatemalan guerrillas claim they inflicted 40 casualties on that country's Army during clashes in the southern part of Chimaltenango Department between 2 and 4 March. A report issued today in San Jose by the CERIGUA news agency, which has close ties with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], says that following 3 days of fighting the guerrillas forced a paratrooper company to retreat from the La Cumbre and Hunahpu Hills.

The report adds that on 2 March the guerrillas ambushed the military troops four times, inflicting "10 confirmed casualties." The guerrillas attacked the Campana government post with hand grenades and rifle fire on 3 March, forcing the military "to evacuate the wounded in three helicopter flights."

The report adds that on the same day the guerrillas carried out three ambushes and four harassment actions in the same mountain area, inflicting eight more casualties on the Army, including a captain.

The guerrillas also ambushed and destroyed a military truck, killing or wounding 20 soldiers, between Patzicia and Patzun, in the middle of Chimaltenango Department.

The URNG says the clashes in the Chimaltenango mountains ended on 4 March, when the guerrillas caused two more government casualties. The troops then "fled the area," the report concludes.

* National Congress Elects New Leadership

32480075a Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 January—As was to be expected, Deputy Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon, from the Christian Democracy [DC] party, was elected yesterday as president of the Legislative Body and the Congress of the Republic with a vote, the likes of which are seldom seen in those environs.

Three competing groups participated in the election which, after an interesting and lengthy debate, had to be held in a nominal manner; in other words, the deputies voted aloud, one by one.

The first candidate list, submitted by Deputy Guillermo Ruiz Suarez (DC), was headed by Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon; the second, submitted by Deputy Jose Luis Rueda Paiz, also from DC, was led by Jose Francisco Lopez Vidaurre; and, finally, the third candidate list was submitted by the National Union of the Center [UCN] party, and was headed by Oliverio Garcia Rodas.

Debate Over Procedure

Lopez Vidaurre's backers, including the president of the Congress himself, filed a motion to have a role call vote taken or not, possibly in an attempt to bring pressure to bear on those who had promised them support. Jose Luis Rueda brought up the point.

Jorge Skinner Klee (UCN) objected to the roll call vote, based on Article 6 of the Law on the Internal Congressional System, which categorically specifies the manner in which this type of election is to be held: "by ticket, and by individual."

Obdulio Chinchilla Vega, an independent, reinforced that view, noting that there was a specific article for what was occurring (No 6) and, "in advance," issued an appeal to the plenum to make a decision as to whether the vote would be taken by roll call or not.

Jose Luis Rueda Paiz defended his motion, with the support of Felipe Antonio Hernandez Valencia. Another independent deputy called for the vote to take place "facing the sun."

Catalina Soberanis Reyes (DC) recalled that the specific part must prevail over the general part of the law on the subject, quoting Section G of Article 12, and challenging President Alonzo Barillas to make a pronouncement based on it. She also asked the president to temporarily delegate the leadership of the debate, so that it would not succumb to defects of partiality.

Other Congress members who participated in the discussion were: Jorge Reyna Castillo (PD [Democratic Party]); Eduardo Tager Matus (DC); Oliverio Garcia Rodas (UCN); and Eduardo Cancinos (DC).

Finally, Chinchilla's motion was passed, and the plenum was queried. The decision was to vote nominally.

No Surprise in the Results

The winners were Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon, president; Marco Antonio Dardon Castillo, first vice-president; Elian Dario Acuna Alvarado, second vice president; German Schell Montes, third vice president; Ramiro Garcia de Paz, first secretary; Nery Morales Gavarrete, second secretary; Jorge Luis Archila Amezquita, third secretary; Waldemar Hidalgo Ponce, fourth secretary; Claudio Coxaj, fifth secretary; Hector Salvador Vasquez, sixth secretary; Rene Gonzalez Argueta, seventh secretary; and Diego Velasco Brito, eighth secretary.

Lobo Dubon won by a total of 54 votes, mostly from DC, but with the backing of some independents, and of the democratic left congressional group from MAS [Solidary Action Movement] and PID [Democratic Institutional Party]. Jose Francisco Lopez Vidaurre won 30 votes, also with a majority from DC, but with the support of MLN [National Liberation Movement], and from some members of PNR [Reformist National Party], UNO [National Union of Opposition], and PR [Revolutionary Party].

The National Union of the Center list of candidates received only its own votes: 14. UCN was the only party to maintain an opposition line, taking a stance diverting from the positions of the government party, divided into two lists from the same cause.

* Former Guerrilla Links GAM to ORPA

32480070a Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 20 Jan 89 pp 3, 80

[Article by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Guatemala, 20 Jan—An important leader of the People in Arms Organization, ORPA, and founder of the Mutual Support Group, GAM, has sought amnesty in Madrid and yesterday visited this capital where he was introduced to the press.

The person in question is Angel-Reyes Melgar, who left Guatemala in 1985 after the deaths of GAM leaders Rosario Godoy and Hector Gomez Calito. Now he is seeking amnesty here because he believes in the democratic process and has tired of discrediting Guatemala, he asserted.

When he was introduced to the press yesterday, Mr Reyes Melgar leveled serious charges against the National Revolutionary Unity of Guatemala, URNG, ORPA and GAM.

Some 20 reporters were present at the press conference given by Reyes Melgar in the conference room at the Air Terminal, in Zone 13.

Tall, slim, with bifocals, he looked more like a young intellectual than a guerrilla fighter. A beard of several days growth covered his face; a black cap was firmly positioned on his head.

The press conference was of a special nature. He gave a chronological account of his life as a guerrilla up to the time he sought amnesty.

The second part was devoted to questions and answers, but he maintained his position of refusing to reveal certain details, attributing this to matters of security.

For 150 minutes the guerrilla related details, dates, places and names concerning his underground life and his interest in returning to a lawful existence.

"I was the founder of GAM, as part of ORPA, when the latter group was planning to recreate an urban front," he explained.

Later on, he added: "GAM's real job is to be ORPA's political arm and, as its founder, I am in a position to test it."

On continuing his account, he recalled that "after the death of his brother, who had fought in ORPA's urban front, he advanced. After it was disbanded in 1983 as a result of pressure from the army, he became isolated from his leader."

"Then," he said, "ORPA decided to reorganize its urban front and we agreed that the case of the 'desparecidos' [those who had disappeared] constituted a good reason for operating without being identified as part of the group.

"Mrs Rosario Godoy, who was living in Costa Rica, was contacted and my leaders gave her my phone number in this capital city so that everything that had anything to do with the 'desparecidos' would be organized and that's how GAM came into existence, having as its leaders Nineth de Garcia, Rosario Godoy, Hector Gomez Calito and myself," he explained.

"ORPA had infiltrated the political parties and the trade unions with its people in an attempt to keep them under cover," Mr Reyes Melgar recalled, "and when GAM was created, they looked for them again since they had been isolated from the organization. They gave them food and money.

"After founding GAM, ORPA could again have its urban front in the capital," the declarant explained, "and it began to receive instructions from the leaders of the guerrilla group, as has been the case to date."

Reyes Melgar recalled that, "like ORPA, the other underground groups have their political arms in this city as well as abroad."

* Extreme Poverty Up 230 Percent Since 1987

32480070b Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Dec 88 p 5

[Text] Guatemala, 21 Dec—"In Guatemala the poverty gap has widened much more than it has in most Latin American countries," and this is cause for concern because "a process of growing inequality is evident, which is increasingly weakening our national plan."

This statement was made by Minister of Labor and Social Security Dr Rodolfo Maldonado in the context of the Sixth Regional Conference of Planning and Employment Officials in Latin America and the Caribbean and the First Conference on Our Debt to the Society, both held in Guatemala.

In one of his speeches the minister said that during the period between 1980 and 1985 there was an increase in Guatemala in the number of poor and a sharpening and extension of the intensity of poverty.

"Not only are there more poor, but they are poorer than before. This development reflects a worsening of the standard of living of the low-income segments of the population which is simply more acute for Guatemala than it is for the rest of Latin America," Dr Maldonado stressed.

In connection with this, he let it be known that his ministry is fully aware of the problem and that, "for us, our debt to the society is at the root of it...: What causes social injustice is the persistence of models which many people have recognized are outdated and which involve an inequitable distribution of the society's wealth."

The minister cited specific data on Guatemala's socioeconomic problem in letting it be known that "up to the start of 1987 the poverty level of the country's families—understood as the level beyond which people may consume more than a basic subsistence package—went from 63 to 65 percent of the population."

"More serious, however," he went on, "is the fact that the proportion of the population suffering from extreme poverty—those who cannot obtain the foods included in the basic subsistence package—has increased from 32 to 72 percent. Thus, between 1980 and the beginning of 1987, 678,000 new families suffered from extreme poverty while there were 235,000 additional families suffering from poverty that was not extreme.

"As for those families that were not poor," Maldonado said, "their number was reduced, in absolute figures as well, to only 231,000. This means that only 15 percent of our population can feed themselves and adequately satisfy their basic needs, and within this 15 percent only a minimal percentage are affluent.

"This is the cost of our debt to the society in Guatemala, which has provoked the crisis," he emphasized.

"This situation," he added, "is one that demands an equitable redistribution policy as a necessary alternative, one which is accompanied by the improvement of production operations."

Honduras

Officials, Leaders on IMF Visit, Measures

Rosenthal: 'Chaos' Possible

PA0803170989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with presidential designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva by Juan Bautista in Tegucigalpa on 7 March—live]

[Excerpt] [Bautista] Good morning. We would like to hear your comments on the visit today by the [joint World Bank and] Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] delegation. It has been reported that the purpose of this World Bank delegation's visit is to ask that our currency be devaluated, our taxes increased, our wages frozen, and our public services rates—such as electricity, water, sewage, and telephone rates—be increased. In short, this IDB and World Bank delegation is visiting Tegucigalpa today to propose that our country undergo the Venezuelan experience and disregard the consequences and effects it will have. Go ahead, sir.

[Rosenthal] Thank you for your call, Juan Bautista. I did not want to make any comments today. However, it is impossible for me to say no to you. I would like to address two or three basic problems that we are facing.

Regarding the IMF, there is no doubt that the medicine they prescribe very often ends up killing the patient, as was the case with Venezuela. I think that some of us in Honduras should bring the IMF officials, or the IMF itself, before the [Inter-American] Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica, the same way that Honduras was brought before the court for violations of the right to life and other human rights violations. In reality, some of the measures applied by the IMF lead to situations that undoubtedly tend to promote social chaos and turn corrective economic measures into a problem rather than a solution.

I have always believed that Honduras should not pay the IMF or the World Bank—there are written records on my position—not because I believe that a country should not pay its debts, but because many of those debts went to finance bad investments. I have repeatedly pointed out that many bad investments were made with the approval of those lending institutions, as in the case of (CORFINHO) [Financial Corporation of Honduras], and that Honduras cannot continue to pay those debts, because to do so would be to diminish what little capability the country has to produce and to save, and that would also be detrimental to new employment opportunities and real economic development.

In that regard, I feel that we should not fulfill all of our obligations to the IMF and the World Bank. However, we should address this matter during the negotiations. During the recent meeting of foreign ministers in San Pedro Sula, we talked to the IDB president about the (CORFINHO) case, and he himself agreed that a mistake had been made that needed to be corrected. At this time, consideration is being given to not paying (CORFINHO)'s debt and to finding a fair solution for Honduras that is not seriously detrimental to the IDB. [passage omitted]

Azcona Rules Out Implementation

PA0903010989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report by Julio Armando Valdes]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said yesterday that his government will reject the economic adjustment measures recommended by the IMF and the World Bank. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] IMF and World Bank missions are coming, and we are going to present our own plans. We will go as far as we can. [end recording]

Azcona noted there will be no discussions with the IMF on devaluing the lempira and reiterated that his government will maintain the lempira's parity to the dollar to import products and raw materials necessary for the country's development. The joint IMF and World Bank missions arrived yesterday and will meet today with Finance and Public Credit Minister Jose Efrain Bu Giron, Honduran Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias, and experts from these two agencies. Regarding the lempira devaluation, Azcona said:

[Begin recording] We will not talk about a devaluation. [end recording]

According to official sources, the IMF is demanding the government raise taxes and fees for public services, freeze wages, eliminate price controls, increase banking interest rates, devalue the lempira, and limit credit for public and private sectors. With those measures, similar to the ones Venezuela implemented at the recommendation of the IMF, the Honduran Government would be increasing its revenues to pay its $52-million debt with the IMF. A highly reliable source told us the government will draft its own strategy and plans based on Honduras's interests, not the IMF and World Bank interests.

Government To Submit Proposal

PA0903131489 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] An economist said yesterday that the proposal Honduras will submit to the IMF will vary greatly from the IMF proposal because the government will not sign any agreement until it clearly understands its advantages. This source added that the Honduran Government wants to sign an agreement with the IMF that respects the honor and dignity of the country. He added that this is impossible now when both sides have conflicting views. However, he said that the IMF and the government agreed on the need to raise import taxes. This measure depends on ensuring that customs officials are honest, because very low import taxes mean that the government is not earning the 190 million lempiras it should be earning.

Economy and Commerce Minister Reginaldo Panting said that we have a clear idea about what must be done and that he does not believe that we will now change our position. He was referring to the government's rejection of IMF and World Bank pressures. The official wondered what possible advantages there would be for countries to accept such IMF measures. He later said: We do not see the advantages, and yet the people are forced to make sacrifices.

He said that increasing the government's revenues may mean imposing strict controls to prevent tax evasion or fare increases, among other measures. However, he admitted that he has no idea what the IMF will propose

to the Honduran Government. The minister added that visits by IMF delegations are beneficial because we learn something from them, even if no agreement is reached.

Central Bank Official on Suspending Payments

PA0903134389 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report on news conference with Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda by Danilo Antunes, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What measures will the Honduran Government propose to the IMF to achieve economic adjustments that are appropriate to conditions in Honduras?

[Carias] There are a series of measures that can be taken. In 1988, a fairly serious effort was made with a 10-percent reduction in public spending. Although [words indistinct] 10 percent, a reduction was instituted.

[Reporter] Is it true that the IMF is calling for the lempira's devaluation?

[Carias] Yes. They are disguising it with a 75 percent increase in the value of CETRAS [certificate of transfer with an option on export currencies—certificado de transferencia con opcion a divisa de exportacion]. Of course, we are not so naive as to believe that this does not constitute a devaluation. We are as much economists as they are, and we are Hondurans who know where they are headed [words indistinct].

[Reporter] In spite of the stiff legal conditions that the IMF is imposing, are there sectors within Honduras that favor the signing of an agreement with the IMF?

[Carias] Yes. You have heard many people who are in favor, but they are the minority. I am not going to give names, because I do not want to end up in jail. They are very powerful people.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Carias] No. I would say about 100 people against the other 4.2 million Hondurans.

[Reporter] How would these people benefit from an agreement with the IMF?

[Carias] For heaven's sake! For example, those who have money abroad would most likely double their lempiras. The value of real estate would go up, and they would also obtain more lempiras for their exports. Concerning exports, in theory, when there is a devaluation, the first thing that the people notice is inflation. When there is inflation, what follows is an increase in wages. You know that the Honduran rank and file are well organized to ask for wage increases. [passage omitted]

Right now, we have suspended all foreign debt payments. We believe that the IMF is going to reach an agreement with us for various reasons. The IMF is having a difficult time in Latin America, and I think that what happened in Venezuela has taught them a lesson. There are those who say that Venezuela adopted the [IMF] measures too late. That is not true, because President Lusinchi adopted very good measures during his administration. What has happened is that the new president was given a single option, and he took it, and now things are going bad.

[Reporter] If an agreement is reached with the IMF, will Honduras make the rules?

[Carias] That is what we want. We are preparing a document for Honduran economists to study. Then we will discuss it and submit it. I think that it is time for Hondurans to show some pride in themselves, rather than allow theoreticians from U.S. universities to come to this country to carry out studies, because in addition to charging high prices in dollars for their services, we have enough of our own experts to carry out those studies.

MPL Rebels Explode Bombs in San Pedro Sula

PA0903172089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1643 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Three low-powered bombs that strew propaganda of the Honduran guerrillas were set off at the same time on the night of 7 March in San Pedro Sula, 250 km north of Tegucigalpa, the police reported today.

One of the bombs exploded at the northern Regional University Center (CURLA), another in Cabanas neighborhood, and the last on Lempira Avenue. None of the bombs caused casualties or material damage, a police source stated.

The bombs contained propaganda of the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement (MPL), which has claimed credit for several dynamite attacks, the kidnapping of persons and aircraft, and murders and bank assaults since it emerged in 1979.

The propaganda urged the liberal government of Jose Azcona to respect human rights, expel the U.S. troops based in Honduras since 1982, end social injustice, and solve the foreign debt and the country's financial deficit.

The Honduran rebels also demanded that the Army publish a report regarding the 142 persons missing since 1982.

CTH Supports Health Workers' Strike

PA0703024589 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 78

[Text] The Confederation of Honduran Workers, CTH, yesterday agreed to give its total support to the Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers Union, SITRAMEDHYS, strike that has paralyzed government health services. The CTH held an urgent meeting with its peasant and labor federations and was instructed "to demonstrate solidarity with the SITRAMEDHYS strike that has been under way for the past 7 days."

CTH Vice President Neptali Garcia stated that several CTH affiliates are experiencing many problems that require immediate attention. Some of the organizations mentioned by Garcia are: SITRAMEDHYS, SITRAINPREMA [not further identified], the Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers, and cinematography workers. Garcia added that these organizations will initiate actions to demand their rights this week.

Garcia stated that the CTH member-organizations agreed to give total support to SITRAMEDHYS and demand the government comply with the agreement made in the commitment act [not further identified].

Furthermore, CTH has threatened to initiate actions immediately if the government does not hold a dialogue with the unions today. The same position was taken by peasant organizations affiliated with the confederation. They added that they are willing to stage large demonstrations.

San Pedro Sula labor and peasant leaders also threatened to hold a nationwide strike tomorrow if the government does not accept the health workers' requests. This decision was made at a meeting of CTH, FESITRANH [Trade Union Federation of Northern Honduran Workers], Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers, National Association of Honduran Peasants, National Association of Honduran Public Employees, Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers, and others, in San Pedro Sula on Saturday, 4 March.

These organizations also agreed to present a document to the executive branch on Monday, 6 March, asking President Jose Azcona to accept the health workers' requests and that if he does not do so they will withdraw from the National Dialogue Commission.

Hospital Workers To Discuss Government Proposal

PA0903033689 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Report by Renato Alvarez; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Federation of Unions of Hospital Workers, USDEH, which suspended its strike on Thursday, will discuss the latest government proposal with its rank and file. If the rank and file turns down the government's 3.6 million-lempira proposal, the federation will go on strike again, according to USDEH President Veronica Nunez.

[Nunez] "After listening to the proposal, we will now consult with the rank and file and state our final position tomorrow.

[Reporter] "What if the rank and file turns down the government's offer?

[Nunez] "As you know, the rank and file has the final word. They will make the final decision. If they say yes, we will continue the strike. If they say no, we will suspend the strike.

[Reporter] "Why did you suspend the strike?

[Nunez] "We temporarily suspended the strike at the rank and file's request.

[Reporter] "What does USDEH represent?

[Nunez] "It is primarily a rank and file union."

In addition, 42 chapters of the Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers, SITRAMEDHYS, agreed to suspend their strike and accept the government's proposal. Three chapters in the northern part of the country disagreed with this, however. At the end of a meeting, SITRAMEDHYS President Celio Alvarez Casildo said:

[Alvarez] "Some aspects of the government proposal could lead to a solution. Both sides, however, have to hold some talks. The government has to analyze the economic situation. We have to consult with our rank and file and try to reach a final decision."

The SITRAMEDHYS strike will be analyzed again today by the Trade Union Federation of Northern Honduran Workers, FESINTRANH, during a meeting in San Pedro Sula.

[Alvarez] "We will go to San Pedro Sula to attend the FESINTRANH meeting and we will discuss the SITRAMEDHYS problem. We will also attend meetings of the various chapters to consider the remaining aspects of our talks with President Jose Azcona. Workers made a proposal many years ago. We intend to have the agreement with the government fully enforced. We think this is fair and reasonable. We have been able to handle the problem within this context so far.

[Reporter] "And the strike?

[Alvarez] "We are still on strike. We will meet with the government at the presidential palace tomorrow at 1700."

Asked whether the government can offer more than 3.6 million lempiras to SITRAMEDHYS, Finance and Public Credit Minister Efrain Bu Giron said:

[Bu Giron] "Any extension of the proposal will be detrimental to the National Treasury and increase the government deficit. We think the government can offer this amount because it is a surplus from last year's public health allocation. The government cannot offer more than this. I think the SITRAMEDHYS leaders should try to understand the situation."

9-Day Strike Ends

PA0903171589 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Scarlett Paget]

[Text] After a 9-day strike in the nation's public hospitals, the [health workers] unions and the Honduran Government have reached an agreement. By tomorrow, hospitals will be open and work will resume normally.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The strike has ended. We hope that we will have no more strikes during the year. [end recording]

The strike has ended, and the workers will get better wages. The government approved the unions' final request for a wage increase of 3.8 million lempiras. Honduran Health Minister Ruben Villeda Bermudez said that no sanctions will be applied to workers who took part in the strike. He added that tomorrow the unions and the government will sign the appropriate agreement. A report on the government's economic and man-hour losses resulting from the strike will also be issued tomorrow.

Nicaragua

Government Devaluates Cordoba 9.5 Percent

PA0903123989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1202 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The Central Bank has decreed a 9.5-percent devaluation of the Nicaraguan cordoba in relation to the U.S. dollar effective today, Thursday. This measure is part of the government's policy to periodically readjust its economy in an effort to control inflation. The previous official exchange rate of 4,200 cordobas to the dollar became invalid as of yesterday afternoon, with the closing of Nicaragua's banking operations. Today, upon resumption of financial operations, the exchange rate was fixed at 4,600 cordobas to the dollar.

Sources indicate that the new economic measure will not lead to an immediate increase in fuel and public transportation costs. The effect of this devaluation on the foreign exchange rate is not known at this time. The U.S. dollar is currently being bought at 4,250 cordobas and sold at 4,500 cordobas. On the black market, the exchange rate is estimated to be 5,000 cordobas to the dollar. This is the Sandinist government's second cordoba devaluation in March and the seventh this year.

Ortega: 41 Somozists May Stay in Prison

PA0903132689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced that 41 former Somozist guards could be excluded from the list of those pardoned pending approval by the Legislative Assembly. These guards are considered a serious threat to society due to the crimes they have committed against the people. Ortega made the announcement during the International Women's Day commemoration activities in Los Ayacanes last night. Former Somozists should be given the chance to be reincorporated into society. Some of them, however, refuse to stop thinking like guards. These will have to stay in prison, because they represent a danger to society, Ortega said.

[Begin Ortega recording] The Assembly is considering excluding 41 former Somozist guards from a possible pardon because of their crimes, which are notorious throughout the country. An Assembly commission is debating this. Aside from these 41 guards, a few dozen more of them will be released, even though these also have never ceased to think like guards and will always think and act like guards. Generosity has its limitations. The extent of our generosity is now being established with this pardon. Any former Somozist guard who is now pardoned and who is again found guilty of criminal activities against the people cannot expect mercy from the people. Justice will be meted out to him. [applause] [end recording]

In the afternoon, Ortega met with representatives of the Luisa Amanda Espinosa Women's Movement and answered questions about layoffs in the agricultural sector:

[Begin Ortega recording] Of course, if a female worker is efficient, a business manager would be foolish to lay off this worker simply because she is a woman. Otherwise, he would be stuck with a worker who is unproductive, unruly, and who does not go to work on Monday because he has been drinking over the weekend. Efficiency should determine the manager's actions. Labor union leaders and managers should know this very clearly. [end recording]

Red Cross Says 8,400 Prisoners Being Held

PA0703000689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1921 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 6 Mar (DPA)—Christopher Harnish, deputy director of the International Red Cross, told DPA in Managua today that there are 8,400 prisoners in Nicaragua, of which 3,400 are former Somozist national guardsmen, "contras," or accomplices of the latter.

The deputy director of the International Red Cross added that in the near future, 2,000 former Somozist guardsmen will be given amnesty and released. Somoza was overthrown in 1979.

President Daniel Ortega said at the last summit of Central American presidents that the guardsmen would be given amnesty. It was also agreed that the U.S.-backed "contras" who are now in Honduras would be disarmed.

Conservative Party Issues Note on Elections

PA0903194589 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Statement issued by Conservative Party's National Board of Directors in Managua on 7 March]

[Text] Whereas:

The dynamics of socioeconomic and political events in Nicaragua have been heightened by a very serious crisis that has had catastrophic consequences requiring decisions that will lead to our becoming fully responsible for a national salvation mission. This has been the role of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN] throughout history, and we must continue to play that role in conjuction with all the patriotic and democratic forces of the country. We inform all Nicaraguans and the national and international public that we have agreed to do the following:

1. Immediately form with all the 14 parties or all the parties able and willing to do so an opposition bloc with a firm and decisive position against President Ortega and his Sandinist totalitarian regime's maneuvers to remain in power.

2. Simultaneously and immediately carry out a process of conservative unification. We thus invite all conservatives to jointly present a request for legal status that will bring together the various classes of Nicaraguans that compose the conservative majority.

3. Regarding the 1990 election process, we will insist on the constitutional reforms requested by the 14 parties, because we consider them a requirement for an authentically free and democratic electoral process in Nicaragua. We will also demand the abolishment of the provisional laws on the social communications media, obligatory military service, maintenance of law and public security, and municipalities. In accordance with the constitutional reforms requested, we will demand, among others, the following election law reforms:

A. Abolishment of the permit requirement to carry out party organization activities, as stated in Article 66. The organization of regional or municipal directorates throughout the country should not be a requirement to obtain legal status as a party. Lists of national, departmental, and municipal directorates in 10 departments should be sufficient, and the members of these directorates should not have to be to registered in the electoral catalogues for previous elections.

B. Organization of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] based upon lists of candidates proposed by the legally registered political parties. The CSE must be formed 90 days after the approval of this reform to include parties that may have obtained legal status during that period.

C. We will recommend that Armed Forces members be denied the right to vote or be candidates to elective posts; they must also be denied the right to be members of the CSE or any other election body or hold posts on party directorates.

D. Prohibition of presidential reelection or the election of a president's relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

E. It must be obligatory for all members of the National Council of Pol[illegible]rties to be elected by the National Assembly of Po[illegible]rties 90 days after these reforms go into effect so t[illegible]arties that obtain legal status during that period may jo[illegible] the Assembly.

F. Creation of elections police with people who do not belong to the Sandinist police. The elections police, which will answer only to the CSE, will supervise the entire elections process.

G. Elimination of Paragraph 3 in both Articles 109 and 110, which make it mandatory for privately owned radio stations to air propaganda of all parties.

H. Elimination of Article 127, which forbids parties to receive donations other than from citizens who reside locally.

I. Giving the right to vote to all Nicaraguan citizens [illegible]ing abroad.

J. Establishment of the elections schedule.

K. Ordering a second round of elections to be held by the presidential and vice presidential candidates who won the election and their runners-up if none of them received more than 50 percent of the total vote in the first round. To these amendments must be added others to complete the essential measures to prevent an election fraud.

4. Demand that the Sandinist government take legal measures to establish private television channels and reopen radio stations seized from people other than from the Somoza family or his government, so the commitments included in the document signed by the Central American presidents in El Salvador on 14 February broadly guaranteeing the political organization of the parties can adequately be complied with.

5. Complete, as soon as possible, the organization of the party's municipal board of directors in areas where armed actions between the Sandinist Peoples Army and the Nicaraguan Resistance will not be interfered with. Request, once again, permission from the National Media Directorate to publish the PCN bulletin. This permission has been refused again and again, but it should be granted in compliance with the El Salvador accords.

6. Announce that the PCN is ready to attend the national dialogue sessions according to procedures to be decided by an opposition parties consensus.
Managua, 7 March 1989.
PCN
[Signed] Eduardo Castillo Ramirez, deputy political secretary; Silviano Matamoros Lacayo, president.

Panama

Boyd Addresses Public Employees, Backs Noriega

PA0803034789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] candidates Carlos Duque Jaen and Aquilino Boyd met this afternoon with public employees of the agricultural sector, IPAT [Panamanian Institute of Tourism], IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], and IPACOOP [Autonomous Panamanian Institute of Cooperatives]. This dialogue was held at the National Lottery auditorium and the COLINA candidates were accompanied by the directors of the government agencies represented there.

The talks were opened by Anel Rodriguez, representing the Agricultural and Livestock Marketing Institue and IDIAP [Panamanian Agricultural Research Institute]. Armodio Villarreal spoke next on behalf of the BDA [Agricultural Development Bank], ISA [Agriculture and Livestock Insurance Institute], MIDA [Ministry of Agriducultural Development] and IPACOOP. Villarreal was followed by Jose Chang, who represented IPAT; Jorge Brown of IDAAN; and Ricaurte Diaz Gonzalez of the Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions.

In their speeches the public sector leaders reaffirmed their support for the COLINA ticket of Carlos Duque Jaen, Ramon Sieiro, and Aquilino Boyd and spoke in support of the civil service.

In addition, second vice presidential candidate Boyd spoke on behalf of the candidates. In his speech, Boyd emphasized the following:

[Begin Boyd recording] Those who betray the fatherland must be sad today because the man who heads the military and who represents the backbone of Panamanian nationalism is stronger than ever. Manuel Antonio Noriega has known how to support Solis Palma's constitutional government and, for more than 1 year, we have been able to show the world that Panamanians know how to use Panamanian solutions for Panamanian political problems. [applause]

We are living in peace in Panama. We have a government that guarantees order and liberties. The traitors must be very sad to see that their plot did not work. They thought that with the recent visit of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission they were going to further deteriorate the Panamanian political process. They thought the commission was going to say that the right climate for free, honest, and just elections, which will lead us to perfecting our democracy, did not exist here. But these traitors were wrong because the human rights commission members realized that Panama, contrary to what occurs in many Latin American countries, is a peaceful country despite its difficulties. There is order and respect for human life here. There are no missing people here. There are no death squads here. The cruel hatred among Panamanians that these traitors—whom we will always point to as being responsible for the many evils affecting our Republic today—report in the United States as existing in Panama does not exist. [end recording]

Chiriqui Residents 'Angry' Over Davis Visit

PA1003122789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0020 GMT 10 Mar 89

[Text] Last-minute reports that we have received from Chiriqui indicate that the people of the province are angry over reports that [U.S. Ambassador] Mr Arthur Davis and his daughter, Susan, plan to visit the Chiriqui fair tomorrow at the invitation of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

Chiriqui residents have said that they will not be held responsible for the safety of Mr Arthur Davis and his daughter Susan and that they consider Davis' presence in Chiriqui an act of provocation that is offensive to the people and traditions of the province.

The PDC members reportedly plan to allow Mr Davis and his daughter to raise the U.S. flag at the fair and sing the U.S. national anthem. Consequently, the people of Chiriqui are indignant and have said that they will not be held responsible for the Davises' safety if they come to Chiriqui.

Columnist Assails U.S. Policy in Panama

PA0903005489 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 16-a

["Dot Your I's" column by Jorge Montalvan: "They are Looking for Trouble"]

[Text] It seems as if the Southern Command and the gringo Defense Department have decided to join the little destabilization bandwagon. It seems as if the Civic

Crusade's entreaties, pleas, and whimperings have borne fruit after all and that preparations are finally under way to do what the local cowards cannot do: topple the government by force.

If not, how would you explain the abuses; the recent haughtiness displayed by officers and troops; this fellow Woerner's reckless statements; rifle-carrying soldiers turned traffic policemen; the blossoming of informers, spies, and their like; the insolent transformation of ordinary school buses into official Army transport buses; and the increased number of provokers at beaches, discotheques, bars, and brothels?

There is logic behind all this, however: Bush's government desperately needs to gain a small point, to establish—at least among the small minority that elected him—the psychological support the empire's natives constantly require.

They came off looking like bastards during and after the Central American summit; in spite of them, the conflicting sides managed to put their desperately needed peace in perspective. Do not forget that Bush's proposed Pentagon chief has been sent to the garbage dump and that the real centers of U.S. power are still teeming with all the gringo-Panamanians you know.

Therefore, in exchange for accepting what the entire civilized world's logic advises, it is evident the United States has decided to teach us a lesson, to offer us as proof that resolve and power, after all, have not disappeared from the White House, as Mr Reagan's crazed cronies and the perverse, calculating, little rodents from the Democratic Congress have shouted and whispered.

The Crusade tried for 3 years and failed despite all its violence. Reagan, Shultz, and Elliott Abrams pledged their word, and Noriega bid them farewell—as he should have—saying good-bye with a wicked smile on his face. The U.S. defeat is now history, as is the defeat of their servants, such as Carlos Andres Perez. Thus, it now seems as if Woerner has also received his orders, behind the screen of electoral noise that the Civic Crusaders and Echevers [Panamanian charged with gunrunning in Costa Rica] and his combo of mercenaries seem to delight in.

They are looking for trouble, and, as at any good rowdy dance in Panama, there will always be someone willing to prove to whomever is willing to watch that he can beat the most macho of them all.

Commentary Rejects Mediation by Regional Leaders
PA0703221889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 89

["The World Today" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez: "The Mediators"]

[Text] It is customary in Latin America for leaders or heads of state who are unable to find solutions to domestic problems, or who lack the courage to face up to the problems of poverty, hunger, poor education, and a fall in health standards caused by a lack of hospitals and medicines, to hand to their successors all of these latent problems in what is called the "carnival of democracy." Every 4 years, a president steps down and his successor is left holding the bag. Not long ago, in a boastful display of frivolity and irresponsibility, [former Venezuelan] President Jaime Lusinchi paid Venezuela's debt to the banks, and in so doing sacrificed Venezuela's reserves and plunged his country into its current crisis.

These are Latin America's democrats. When their home is on fire, they look abroad. To compensate for their ineptitude and lack of courage in keeping their promises to the people, they offer to mediate the internal conflicts of other countries. Recent examples of this phenomenon can be seen with President Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica, who is described in his own country as a permanent traveler who has failed to address the needs of Costa Ricans, and with [former Costa Rican President] Daniel Oduber Quiros, representative of that "entente cordiale," the Socialist International. Then there is that grand master of sophistry and fiction whose name is [Venezuelan President] Carlos Andres Perez. These are the names that appear on the list of eternal mediators.

Panama does not accept mediators; mediators who, in the final analysis, are emissaries working for the Great Guilty One [El Gran Culpable]. For more than 2 years, the United States has been looking for mediators who will come to grips with Panama's problems, which have been caused by cruelty, lack of foresight, and a lack of respect toward a friendly nation, which have plunged this country into the depths that we have all suffered.

Washington's long-established tradition is to abuse, intervene, and then search for a group willing to take the blame while the United States frees itself from all blame. Thus, it is worth knowing that we are victims of the United States, that all that happens in Panama is the result of actions taken by the United States and by the servilists [reference to members of the opposition National Civic Crusade]—members of the old, rich, and insensitive oligarchy—who yearn to recover political power even though they never lost economic power.

We are not going to waste time arguing with mediators, nor are we going to deceive the Panamanian people by taking part in superficial and inconsequential talks with mediators who lack authority and decisionmaking power—mediators who are mere figures on a canvas, and who atone for Uncle Sam's great guilt regarding the 2 million Panamanians who have committed no crime that justifies such humiliating treatment.

It is therefore necessary to point out that we are not willing to agree to mediation. Let the mediators offer their services to other countries. Let them look for other places to help. In this country, our problems have a common origin and a single cause. We must turn to that

single cause and to the Great Guilty One to find the corrections demanded by the freedom, self-determination, sovereignty, and dignity of the Panamanian people.

Let Carlos Andres Perez keep his diplomatic talents, his experience as a statesman. We have to solve this problem with those who created it; they will have to back up, review their blunders, and have a new perspective on our people, who deserve the best future possible.

Local Human Rights Group States Position

PA0903041389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] The Panamanian Human Rights Committee held a news conference today to announce its stance following the recent visit by the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH], which asked the Panamanian Government to reinvestigate the murder of Hugo Spadafora.

Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, told the international media that it is necessary for the Republic of Panama to respect international human rights agreements and to guarantee free and honest elections as the only way to achieve peaceful political changes. Velasquez said all political prisoners should be released, including soldiers; all political exiles should be allowed to return; and Diana del Rio de Batres and Eduardo Sanchez Pena, who have serious health problems, should be released. The government promised the CIDH to release them, but so far it has not done so.

PDC Legislator on Attacks Against Candidates

PA0903155989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party legislator Raul Ossa by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ossa] We have presented an appeal to request that some fraudulent address changes that appear in the final electoral list be removed. I could mention a few cases; for example, the entire Torrijos Richa family are listed as residents in a small, remote village in La Chorrera District, when we all know they live in a residential area in San Francisco corregimiento. We are requesting that this sort of thing be rectified and we are fighting to change this. This appeal was sent to the Electoral Tribunal.

[Reporter] Could you explain what happened at La Chorrera Fair?

[Ossa] Progovernment individuals at La Chorrera Fair tried to physically attack the presidential candidates, especially [first vice presidential candidate] Ricardo Arias Calderon, who was to be the main target. Fortunately, we noticed that—and I was personally affected but without any major consequences—people who were legally imprisoned and people who were under arrest by the La Chorrera Attorney General's Office directly participated in the incident. These people were in the custody of the local military chief.

We lodged a complaint against them today, and we regret that the prosecutor rejected our suit. We expect him to take it into consideration in the future, because this type of action could have terrible consequences for our country.

ADOC Candidates Continue Campaigning

PA0703045389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report by Ciro Ortega]

[Text] As part of its campaign of directly contacting the people, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] candidates toured several parts of Panama City on Saturday. A motorcade of Arnulfists [followers of the late President Arnulfo Arias Madrid] and Authentic Liberal Party, Nationalist Republican Movement, and Christian Democratic Party [PDC] supporters toured the 50th Street, Panama Viejo, Rio Abajo, and Juan Diaz sectors of Panama City.

Opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara left his car on several occasions to greet and talk with opposition followers. During the tour through these low-income areas, the ADOC presidential candidates received expressions of support. A considerable number of vehicles joined the motorcade, while people in the streets cheered the opposition candidate. Endara made the following statements to our reporters.

[Begin recording] [Endara] People have come to the streets to welcome their true opposition leaders, the only leaders in the country who represent the people and who want to bring the people to power.

[Reporter] What do you plan to do if you are elected president?

[Endara] To work for the people, as simple as that. Everything will be done according to the doctrine of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, the democrat who loved the Panamanian people the most. [end recording]

First vice presidential candidate Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon emphasized the need to guarantee the 7 May elections.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The poorer the area the greater the enthusiasm and the expressions of support for ADOC objetives, which are very simple: To give all Panamanians democracy and better living conditions. We will also restore confidence in the government, which is absolutely necessary to reconstruct our economy. [end recording]

The ADOC candidates toured the western part of Panama Province on Sunday. The opposition candidates continued their campaign of directly contacting the people.

Opposition Said To Seek Reunification With PPA

PA0803003489 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 11

[Text] A member of the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] Directorate, who asked to remain anonymous, has told MEDIODIA that Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [MOLIRENA] members Mario Galindo, Abraham Pretto, and Anel Beliz have met with PPA presidential candidate Hildebrando Nicosia in order to reunify the opposition.

The first details of this proposal, which were revealed to three local journalists, do not indicate if Galindo, Pretto, and Beliz are the same persons who, as Nicosia has reported, offered to pay Nicosia 1.4 million balboas if he gave up his presidential aspirations and supported Guillermo Endara.

The source believes the MOLIRENA directors were motivated to keep in contact with current PPA President Hildebrando Nicosia Perez in order to attain a last-minute reconciliation with the members of the largest opposition political party.

The source also maintained that Christian Democratic Party President Ricardo Arias Calderon, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance first vice presidential candidate, was reportedly not aware of the rapprochement efforts promoted by the MOLIRENA directors because they feared Arias Calderon's "radicalism" could doom the reunification negotiations.

MOLIRENA Leader on Dialogue With FDP

PA0803003289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Alfredo Ramirez, president of the opposition Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA), yesterday told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that a dialogue between the opposition and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] "is necessary and advisable," but that the dialogue has to address the nation's real problems.

"I have always said a dialogue between the FDP and the real democratic opposition is necessary and advisable," Ramirez, an experienced politician and former education minister, said.

Ramirez said that nevertheless, such "a necessary and serious dialogue" was rejected by the FDP when they sent "groups that do not have any representation or decisionmaking power" to the dialogue.

Ramirez was referring to a dialogue that was held last year by the People's Unity Front (FUP) and to its recommendation that a meeting be held between the opposition and the government headed by President Manuel Solis Palma, who until 1984 was a MOLIRENA member.

"Once the FDP believes the country's problems must be discussed with the democratic opposition parties and the Civic Crusade, with a specific agenda that includes the status of the FDP, I am sure that the Defense Forces will receive a positive reply from the opposition," Ramirez stated.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP, invited the opposition to discuss the country's problems and the 7 May general elections 1 month ago.

However, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), formed by the MOLIRENA, the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), rejected a possible meeting and conditioned it to changes in the FDP leadership.

Ramirez said that "whether or not the government likes it," the elections will be a plebiscite in which the people will confirm their demand for change, and he warned that the FDP will have to either respect the results or stage a coup d'etat.

"When the results are in, they will either respect them or stage another coup d'etat," Ramirez said. He acknowledged that a meeting with the military is necessary.

Ramirez said "the political campaign must be dignified and decent, without shameless and vulgar insults."

Opposition Viewpoints Broadcast 6, 7 Mar

PA0703213589

[Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1500 GMT on 6 and 7 March broadcasts a live 1-hour "political program" in which the country's political parties can express their views. Prior to the program, the station announcer states: "You will now listen to a political program through which the Electoral Tribunal complies with Article 166 of the Electoral Code. Panama's Radio Nacional [Domestic Service] hereby states that the opinions expressed here are the sole responsibility of the parties that express them."

The first party to express its opinion on the 6 March program is the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. PDC Legislator Guillermo Cochez begins by announcing that he and PDC member Jose Pitti "will be in charge of the 30 minutes that the Electoral Tribunal has granted to the PDC, the green star [symbol of the PDC] party that dares. This is part of the time that is granted to the political parties during the election campaing by this station, Radio Nacional, which belongs to all of us but which we all know is used as if it belonged to a small

group." Cochez states that the PDC has been given 30 minutes a week, from 1000-1030, during the 8 weeks prior to the 7 May elections. Cochez continues by stressing that "this station belongs to all of us because our taxes pay for this station and for the salaries of the Panamanians, citizens like you and I, who work at this state-owned station. The law states that this station belongs to all of us and not just to the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]—and much less to General Noriega." According to Cochez, the people are bored with the broadcast of speeches, the national network newscast, and lengthy PRD congresses and meetings "in which beautiful things are said about General Manuel Antonio Noriega." He adds that the same people who praised Eric Arturo Delvalle are the ones who later criticized him and that those who now praise Manuel Antonio Noriega will be the ones who will reject him tomorrow. Cochez states: "Remember that Manuel Antonio Noriega will not last forever. Everything on earth has an end; only God is eternal. We are Christian people. Remember that all bad things must come to an end—in 1, 5, or 10 years, but they will end."

Cochez states that the PDC wants a comprehensive change in the country, especially in the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], which "rather than being an instrument for the country's democratization" is "an obstacle to democratization." Pitti then reads the constitutional article that establishes the FDP, which, according to the Constitution, "should not intervene in party politics." Cochez explains that the PDC has made serious proposals concerning the FDP and that those who say that if the opposition reaches power it will eliminate the FDP are lying. He says the PDC cannot conceive of a military that does not serve the country and its interests but rather the interests of four or five people who temporarily hold leadership positions. Cochez adds that the PDC also proposes the retirement of officers who have served for more than 25 years; the revision of Law 20, which regulates the FDP; the demilitarization of civilian state institutions based on draft laws prepared by a civilian-military commission; the creation of a National Defense and Public Security Ministry; and the establishment of a national security council headed by the president.

After the PDC's 30-minute program, the People's Party [PdP] begins its section with the song, "American Colony, No!" Carlos Changmarin states that he represents the PdP, the party of the red star, and that "through this program, we will make known our candidates to legislators and corregimiento representatives as well as the program that the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA], to which we belong, will implement." He announces that PdP legislative candidate Cleto Manuel Souza will also speak during the program. After analyzing the importance of voting, Souza says that "all Panamanian citizens who love their country and who are concerned about its future should view with responsibility the sacred institution of the vote." Changmarin and Souza then mention the great qualities of various PdP legislative candidates. They comment that "the United States is on the side of the colonialist Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, so the main objective of the members of the PdP, which is part of COLINA, is to win the May elections." They add that the elections "are a struggle against imperialism."

On 7 March, the station announcer reports that the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement and the Revolutionary Panamenist Party representatives did not appear at the station studios for the program. As a result, only music is broadcast.

Banking Official Says Banks 'Recovering'
PA0803131089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Mar 89 p 20

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] The banking community is "anxiously awaiting" the 7 May elections and banking activity is "recovering cautiously," according to a report given to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday by Edgardo Lasso Valdez, president of the Panama Banking Association.

Lasso said that bankers in Panama are keeping close watch on the election campaign, and he said he supported a respectful political campaign that could lead to a solution to the "current crisis" the country is experiencing.

The Panama Banking Association has about 120 member banks operating in Panama, and Lasso said that the system has shown "signs of recovery" despite depositors' confidence still not being what it used to be.

Lasso said the "worst is over" and stressed that "we see certain positive steps" in the call for a high-class election campaign without offenses.

Lasso added: "The moment the government, the opposition, and the economic groups are willing to seek solutions to their differences through elections, we will perceive this as something positive."

Lasso said that the crisis the country has gone through in the last 2 years did not force the closure of any financial institutions.

Lasso announced the opening of the Banco Patria and Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and that a national bank he would not identify has been authorized to operate in Panama's banking center.

The First Bank of Chicago, Bankers Trust, Banque Paribas, Estado Do Sao Paulo, Credit Suisse, and Banque Indosuez ended their operations in Panama due to branch cutbacks or debt problems with their main offices.

Government May Issue 'Pay Notes' for Employees

PA0603010689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] The revenues of the Panamanian Government totaled $500 million in 1988, which is 44 percent less than in 1987. This decrease is the result of economic sanctions imposed illegally by the U.S. Government on the Panamanian people, which also has affected one-fifth of our wealth, increased unemployment to 20.8 percent—the principal source being the private sector—and reduced our ability to grow in the next 10 years.

The decrease in the central government's tax revenues as a result of the U.S. economic sanctions imposed on the country have significantly curbed the state's participation in the country's economic growth. The sanctions have caused financial contractions that have prevented the state from making certain investments. However, the state has always assigned priority to the payroll—avoiding reductions in the number of public employees and in their wages.

The payroll includes the 13th-month bonus payment. As of August 1988, most of these payments had been met, except for 25 percent of the second portion.

Given the seriousness of the situation and the public employees' patriotic awareness, the state has engaged in negotiations with them regarding the payment of 25 percent of the second portion, the third December portion, and the allowances pertaining to decentralized institutions with special laws, such as the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification and the National Institute of Telecommunications.

In this process, the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees [FENASEP] and the Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions proposed that the government implement a financial procedure to permit the state to meet its commitments without worsening the financial crisis. This procedure contemplates payment of the 13th-month bonus and the 1988 allowances with state pay notes. This note differs from other similar financial documents in that it is part of the payroll and is handled as a priority. The pay notes mean public employees are financing public expenditures. They offer public employees many options. They can be kept for a period of time and then redeemed, after having accumulated interest, through public drawings. They can be redeemed on their expiration date or negotiated according to discount rates on the domestic financial market.

The anticipated negotiation of these pay notes, which is another option public employees have, will be discussed and analyzed by the owners of the pay notes in search of a better option on the domestic financial market.

Characteristics of the Treasury Pay Notes

A. Rate of interest: 6 percent annually, effective December 1988.

B. The first payments concerning interest and capital will go into effect April 1989 and subsequently every six (6) months, ending in April 1991.

C. It is estimated that the payments, including interest and capital, will be made as follows:

April 1989: $2.5 million
October 1989: $5.0 million
April 1990: $5.0 million
October 1990: $5.0 million
April 1991: $5.5 million

D. The pay notes can be used as bail, guarantee bonds, legal reserves of insurance companies, and other traditional uses of state bonds.

E. The notes can be redeemed in advance on the months indicated through public drawing on a computerized system to be determined by the comptroller general. In other words, on those months, if the officials are fortunate in the drawing, they can redeem all their 13th-month pay, including the interest accumulated up to that time.

F. Representatives of FENASEP, the Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions, the Finance and Treasury Ministry, and the Comptroller General's Office will attend the drawing.

G. If a public official is fortunate in the drawing, he can go to any Banco Nacional cashier to cash in the amount of the note or the amount of the 13th-month bonus payment, including the interest acccumulated up to the day of the drawing.

Revenues Director on Tax Payment Deadlines

PA0703132089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Report on statements by General Directorate of Revenues Director Ricardo Levy; date and place not given]

[Text] General Directorate of Revenues Director Ricardo Levy said that the deadline for paying taxes will not be extended. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Levy] The percentage of January and February tax revenue collection is greater than that collected during the last three months of 1988. We believe that we have collected more taxes and, although hindered by U.S. aggression, we estimate that tax revenues will continue to increase.

[Reporter] Have any talks been held to solve the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees' problem in obtaining tax clearance certificates to get their vehicle license plates?

[Levy] No talks have been held. There are some PCC employees who, in a spirit of patriotism, have paid their taxes and, of course, they have been given their taxclearance certificates and have had no problem buying their

license plates. Other employees cannot be given tax clearance certificates because they owe taxes to the government.

[Reporter] Will the income tax payment deadline be extended?

[Levy] No; definitely not. The income tax statement deadline is 31 March, and it will not be extended. It will stay the same, as will the 28 February license plate purchase deadline, which has also not been extended. The only thing that will be extended is the revolutionary process—on 7 May 1989—and this is because the people want it. [end recording]

The revenues director denied that state certificates of payment for the 13th-month bonus will be accepted as tax payments by the government:

[Begin Levy recording] Obviously a person having the certificate can go to the Banco Nacional or come here to pay his taxes as soon as his certificate has been chosen through a public drawing or if the certificate has expired. The certificate holder, however, has to wait until the certificate has been drawn, according to the rules, or wait for the payment date to expire in 1991. [end recording]

Hong Kong Consortium To Invest in Colon

PA0703165989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Luis Barletta, general director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute, last night announced that a major consortium from Hong Kong has signed a contract with the Panamanian Government to lease 30 hectares of land on Margarita Island, Colon Province. The consortium will build an industrial export complex on the island.

The investment is part of a new initiative to expand the Colon Free Zone and will create between 10,000 and 15,000 new jobs.

Barletta said that in addition to Hong Kong firms, some of which have already built facilities on Margarita Island, two other investment groups, one each from the PRC and Taiwan, will be investing in businesses on Margarita Island.

Colon Free Zone Manager on Jan Activity

PA0703222089 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 7

[Summary] Colon Free Zone Manager Veyra Remon has reported that in January 1989, the Colon Free Zone imported and re-exported $347 million in merchandise. She said this figure is very good because it was attained despite Panama's current crisis.

Argentina

Spokesman Denies Alfonsin's Possible Resignation

PY0903173589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1648 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (DYN)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today denied a report on the possible resignation of President Raul Alfonsin after the 14 May elections so that he can engage in negotiations in the electoral college. He stated that the president "has no other concern but to complete his term in office."

Lopez thus denied a report published by the morning newspaper EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, according to which Alfonsin will probably resign or delegate his post to Vice President Victor Martinez after the national elections.

"The president has no other concern but to complete the term in office he assumed in 1983, to continue working to consolidate the system, and to hand over the presidential sash to another constitutional president," Lopez stated.

Referring to the alleged "strategist friends of the president" mentioned by the newspaper as being those who mentioned the initiative, Lopez said he does not know them, and added that "in any case, they are not Alfonsin's friends."

The presidential spokesman admitted, however, that the government has learned about a third communique issued by the self-styled "Popular Resistance Front," which claimed the attack on La Tablada Regiment, but he refused to reveal its content.

"By no means am I going to become a spokesman of those criminals," Lopez answered when he was asked for further information in this respect.

Lopez said that the communique was received by the newspaper LA REPUBLICA from Montevideo. The terrorists have used this newspaper on several occasions to publish their proclamations.

Alfonsin Addresses Regional Economy Group

PY0903205289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1336 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin at the National Assembly of Regional Economies opening ceremony at Cervantes National Theatre in Buenos Aires—live]

[Excerpts] Dear Chairman of the General Economic Confederation [CGE], Messrs Chairmen, ladies and gentlemen: We are undergoing a double transition in our country. On one hand we are moving into a fully consolidated democracy based on peace, free exchange of ideas, and solidarity—into a democracy free from all vestiges of authoritarianism. On the other hand, we are moving into a new economic order that may give us back lasting stability, economic growth, and justice—without those long periods of inflation, recession, and social polarization.

All of us Argentines thus face a great challenge. Our courage and understanding are being challenged. Despite all difficulties, and the extremely adverse conditions of our foreign relations, we cannot stop this process; we cannot reverse it; we cannot yield to the pressures being exerted on us.

Our ultimate goal is a pluralist democracy that may lead to progress. With this goal in mind, the president of the Republic and the officials that assist him cannot allow themselves to feel discouraged or tired. We will continue fighting this battle until the last minute of our time in office. We will continue to tread this path until that last minute.

This decision is not a result of stubbornness, but of our deepest conviction that many things must be changed. We can no longer accept an administration that blocks private initiative and social participation. That is why we are modifying the administration and putting it at the service of the people.

We can no longer accept an autarkic economy that exacerbates social conflicts. We are therefore increasing our technological and commercial interaction with the rest of the world, thereby broadening the basis for a deeper modernization of the country.

We can no longer allow high inflation to corrode the salaries of the poorest strata of society and to sow uncertainty and insecurity among everyone. We are therefore resorting to all sources that may genuinely ensure stability. This is the path we have chosen to tread.

I want to assure you, however, that we are not naive. We are not ignoring the dangers that are hidden along this path. With each step we take, we remove very powerful interests that cling to their privileges. These interests cannot convince themselves that their claims, no matter how legitimate they may seem, will never be as important to us as the general welfare of the Argentine people.

This is why we will not yield to any pressure. The better this decision is understood, the easier and less traumatic the democratic transition will be. With serenity and energy, we will listen prudently to all sectors of society. We will administer the entire country fairly and without favoring particular sectors. We will keep the special interests that threaten our society from overwhelming national life. These special interests that have harmed our country will not succeed in defeating us. If we succeed in overcoming sectorial egocentrism, speculation, inflation, and violence, we will have ensured the future of the country.

I wanted to deliver this message to convince you that our actions are well founded. The essence of our actions will therefore not be modified.

We have opened the way to a profound transformation that will lead us not only to full political democracy, but also to economic democracy. It will open the path to new investments by our rural and urban businessmen; it will increase the number of jobs; it will increase the purchasing power of salaries; it will consolidate the welfare of our people. This is why we will not lose heart now that the light at the end of the tunnel can be seen.

I have attentively listened to the message delivered by the CGE chairman, who very correctly said that we are consolidating our institutions and undergoing a transition.

In response to the criticism of our economic policies, we must point out that our history has proven that economic difficulties are not a result of economic policies adopted by the various administrations, but a result of the recurrent political crises in the country—crises that have not been entirely solved.

We believe, therefore, that the fact that we have overcome the most acute aspects of our political difficulties is not only a political achievement. It is also an extremely important contribution to the solution of our economic problems.

Working for that solution, we decided to reevaluate the role of the Argentine regional economies and their development. For the first time in our country's history, we have created a regional development secretariat. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the complaints about the attention given to the regions were intended to lead the country back to its old path. We realized that a conservative culture, that promoted underdevelopment and did not offer solutions to our problems, was creating obstacles to our new policies. Despite all that, we have made progress and achieved some goals.

The Central Bank has assigned important funds to the regions. Law 26,101 introduced the regional economies to the benefits of foreign trade. The export consortiums tried to respond appropriately to the small and medium enterprises by making them grow and find new markets.

Measures were adopted to grant broader integration with Brazil and Uruguay. a railroad was built to establish new ties with Peru and Bolivia. Those are some of the efforts the government has made to find new development models to counteract the old model, which stifled regional production. [passage omitted]

We must admit that, to continue implementing these measures, we will have to adapt the laws to the new realities. For that purpose, CGE support is vital, because the conclusions of this assembly will be a valuable contribution to our effort to reach a consensus as required by the challenge we have accepted.

It is very stimulating for me to meet the representatives of the productive sector. Realizing the importance of the challenge we have undertaken, you today ended a 10-day round of debates that were held all over the country.

Dear CGE Chairman, I share your opinion regarding the characteristics of the small and medium enterprises. My administration is convinced that we must not view these enterprises as a troublesome sector of society that must be looked after for social reasons.

The developed countries clearly show us the important role these enterprises play in growth and the distribution of wealth.

It is also stimulating, Mr Chairman, to hear you say that freedom is the unquestionable source of creativity, culture, and productivity.

Thank you very much.

Caputo Terms Chile Relations 'Very Cordial'

PY0903180489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1556 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that relations between Argentina and Chile are "very cordial," adding that "there are no clouds" over the relationship between the two border countries.

Caputo said that he agreed with the statement by his Chilean counterpart Hernan Errazuriz in which the latter denied journalistic reports about "increasing tensions" in Argentine-Chilean diplomatic relations.

Caputo said that the two countries are going through very important stages in their political development although there are obvious differences because their histories and political processes are different.

Caputo made these remarks in the military base at the metropolitan airport, a few minutes before leaving for Caracas, Venezuela, where he will attend a new meeting of the Group of Eight to discuss the sociopolitical strain that the payment of the foreign debt places on the region.

Caputo described his personal relation with Errazuriz as "good," and reaffirmed that Argentine-Chilean relations are going through "a stage of rapprochement."

Asked about the arrival [in Montevideo] of the "Indiana I" ferry in late March, Caputo said that he has not received any confirmation about its arrival. He promised however, to discuss this issue with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barros Tassano.

Magazine Reports Sunken Ship Carried Missiles

PY0903220589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0630 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Santiago, 8 Mar (EFE)—Tomorrow's issue of the conservative Chilean magazine QUE PASA includes an article saying that the Argentine ship "Bahia Paraiso," which sunk in the Antarctic, was carrying advanced weapons, possibly "Exocet" rockets, a weapon made famous in the Malvinas Islands conflict.

The magazine says that the rescue operation is taking place quietly and "secretly."

The magazine says "they are doing the job with great discretion because the ship was carrying four very sophisticated and technologically advanced weapons...and two helicopters. They are now...trying to take them out."

The "Bahia Paraiso" ran aground in Palmer Bay, just off the U.S. Palmer Antartic Base, on 31 January. The ship was carrying 300 passengers, who escaped uninjured.

The ship sunk while U.S. and Chilean ships struggled to control the oil spill produced when the gasoline tanks ruptured.

Dollar Exchange Rate Up to 41 Australes

PY0903233089 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Mar 89 p 1, 5

[Excerpt] (DYN)—An unprecedented stampede on the black-market dollar triggered by a lack of confidence in the government's economic policies caused the value of the greenback to shoot up past the 40-austral mark yesterday, finally settling at 41 australs (buy) and 41.50 (sell).

At the same time, beef and grain prices also headed sharply upwards, perhaps affected by rumours that the government was about to announce drastic changes in its economic policies such as a 20-30 percent devaluation of the austral.

However, this rumour was later denied by Treasury sources, who said "the government was not going to change anything and would continue with its current monetary policy because we do not want to produce hyper-inflation as was caused by former Economy Minister Celestino Rodrigo when he decided to rationalize prices nor do we want to create a Venezuelan-type catastrophe."

Nevertheless, market activity reached an almost hysterical level yesterday as small depositors swarmed on exchange houses to pay whatever prices were asked of them. Similarly, the rush to buy dollars triggered a parallel run on banks as depositors hurried to withdraw their savings. [passage omitted]

Councilman's House Attacked in Moron

PY0803211389 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] According to reports by some neighbors, two individuals riding a motorcycle have fired shots at the house of Justicialist Party [PJ] Councilman Felipe Insaurralde.

Insaurralde, who belongs to the PJ-Renewal faction, and four other PJ councilmen voted to suspend Moron Mayor Juan Carlos Rousselot.

According to our investigation, the incident occurred today at about 0345 at the house of councilman Felipe Insaurralde, at the intersection of Don Bosco and Constitucion Streets in northern Haedo District. A large motorcycle stopped in front of the councilman's house, and two individuals on the cycle fired shots at the house.

Two policemen charged with guarding the councilman's house immediately arrived at the scene. They clashed with the individuals, who finally managed to escape.

Homemade Bombs Damage Car, House;

PY0803231289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1305 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Catamarca, 8 Mar (NA)—Oscar Garbe, vice governor of Catamarca, today reported that two homemade bombs damaged the private car of a provincial deputy and the front of a house belonging to an employee of the provincial government. The explosion caused no casualties.

The attacks were perpetrated against the car of Eduardo Macedo, provincial deputy and secretary of the Justicialist Party of Catamarca, and against the house of Maria Elena Salim, director of the government's Handicrafts Department. Salim linked the bombings to the strike being held by state employees.

During a news conference held at government house yesterday, Salim said that "ever since the strike took effect I have been receiving telephone threats from unidentified individuals. I have also been insulted by employees of the Association of State Workers (ATE), who said they would apologize but have not done so yet."

Vice Governor Garbe regretted the events and indicated that the two attacks occurred early yesterday morning, causing damages but no casualties. The explosive devices were medium-power homemade bombs.

Other officials indicated that "outside elements may be involved in these events," but they did not identify any individuals or sectors. They said the investigation into the bombings continues.

They also said there was speculation in provincial official circles linking these events with the La Tablada military garrison incident. In view of that possibility, some officials called for the end of the strike because the union conflict could serve as fertile ground for violence.

That call was labeled by union leaers as "reactionary." Also, vandals took advantage of a rally by public employees downtown to explode a bomb that broke windows of nearby shops.

The Interior Ministry contacted the Catamarca Province governor's office "to convey the national government's solidarity" and to become familiar with the latest acts of violence.

Ammunition, Insignias Discovered in Lobos

PY0903023489 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Mar 89 p 11

[Text] La Plata—Ammunition for infantry weapons [armas de guerra] of various calibers and insignia of senior military officers and noncommissioned officers have been discovered in the jurisdiction of the city of Lobos.

This report has been confirmed by police sources, who refused to elaborate. Nonetheless, the sources admitted that a hunter discovered a bag containing 11-mm, 9-mm, 6.25-mm, and 22.5-mm ammunition in a ditch next to a dirt road in a rural area near Lobos. The 22.5-mm ammunition could be for an artillery piece.

The bag also contained military insignia of high-ranking officers and noncommissioned officers, and other items.

The discovery has been reported to Lomas de Zamora federal judge Julio Piaggio.

Bolivia

Government Wants U.S. To Fulfill Commitments

PY0803125789 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Text] Information Minister Hermann Antelo has stated that Bolivia has asked the U.S. Administration to fulfill the agreed antidrug trafficking programs. On several occasions the United States has avoided its commitments, including one case when the U.S. Administration withdrew funds intended for the antidrug trafficking program, thus damaging Bolivia.

Bolivian authorities have reported that the United States must cooperate with our country to fulfill the goals of the struggle against drug trafficking.

FRG To Increase Aid by $14 Million

PY0903182089 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] The governments of Bolivia and the FRG yesterday signed an agreement under which the FRG will increase its aid to Bolivia by $14 million for 1988 [year as published].

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez and FRG Ambassador Hermann Sauweber.

The German aid will be used by the Social Emergency Fund, for the purchase of a gas turbine for Tarija, and for a locomotive maintenance program for the National Railway Company.

According to the FRG Embassy, this new agreement increases the FRG financial aid to Bolivia to $90 million. German cooperation for the 1987-88 term totals more than $100 million if an estimated $30 million worth of technical aid and other FRG nongovernment organizations are added. Bolivia is one of the countries that receives most help from the FRG.

The FRG will celebrate its 40th foundation anniversary this year. In 1949 the FRG proclaimed its constitution. Its democracy and its economic success are the main characteristics of the FRG.

Delegation To Make Proposals at IDB Meeting

PY0903141389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bolivian Central Bank President Jaques Trigo has reported that, at the meeting of IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] governors to be held in Amsterdam, Bolivia will propose that the new capital of this organization be used for long-term credits. Trigo added that with this our country and others will have access to long-term financial credits at rates lower than the commercial interest rate.

If this proposal receives the appropriate support, we will improve the financial support to our country and receive more resources at lower interest rates.

Trigo said that the Bolivian delegation will leave this weekend for Amsterdam where the meeting will take place. [recorded passage indistinct]

Trigo added that the Bolivian proposal also proposes that the IDB charge fixed interest rates on future financial projects.

He concluded by saying that this last aspect is very important for Bolivia because commercial interest rates have increased considerably over the past few months, thus having a negative effect on our foreign debt.

Panamanian Congressmen Pay Friendly Visit
PY0903143589 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
2 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Chairman Walter Soriano Lea Plaza yesterday held a special meeting with a delegation of Panamanian congressmen.

Hugo Giraud, the head of the delegation said that the Panamanian congressmen are paying a friendly visit to Bolivia. The delegation is made up of Hugo Giraud, Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee chairman, and Congressmen Jorge Ruben Rosas, Antonio Correa, Juan S. Alvarado and Carlos Ruben Rosas.

Giraud told journalists: "Panama has always expressed its solidarity with the Bolivian aspirations for an outlet to the Pacific Ocean, to which it has an inalienable right." Giraud also thanked the Bolivian Government for its solidarity with Panama which wants the United States to fulfill the terms of the Torrijos-Carter agreements.

Giraud said that the idea of stronger relations among Latin American congressmen will contribute to improving the political and democratic systems of the continent.

Giraud also referred to the conflict prevailing in Panama due to U.S. pressure, adding that general elections for president, vice president and government officials will take place in Panama on 7 May.

Air Force Inaugurates New Systems Department
PY0903215589 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
2 Mar 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Air Force Commander General Guillermo Escobar Uhry has inaugurated the FAB [Bolivian Air Force] General Command Systems Department, which operates on the ground floor of the Montes Avenue Central Building. According to Gen Escobar, the inauguration of the department marks the delivery and intial operation of sophisticated computer equipment and the modern facilities to accomodate it. [passage omitted]

Gen Escobar expressed his deep satisfaction with the inauguration of such a modern computer systems department, which places the FAB at the forefront, "ready to face an ever more demanding world."

Gen Escobar added: "From now on our institution will be able to streamline its activities to provide more safety and accuracy and better control and filing of its operations. It will be able to file data on our air routes and on the use and maintenance of plane engines. It will also help our spare parts stock service, which keeps all our technical equipment in the air and on the ground operating."

All the FAB General Command chiefs of staff attended the inauguration ceremony.

Minister Purchases Civil Defense Plane
PY0903133489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
3 Mar 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Bolivian Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo yesterday signed an agreement with the Spanish ambassador and the representative of the "CASA" enterprise for the purchase of a "CASA" airplane. This purchase represents an investment of $3.4 million, payable over 3 years at 3 percent interest per annum in accordance with the Spanish Government financial aid program.

Revollo stated that the plane has been purchased now that all legal requirements have been fulfilled. He added that the plane is intended for Civil Defense, and that it will be used for support, and to transport troops and equipment to inaccessible sites. [passage omitted]

Public Sector Wage Increase Announced
PY0903170489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
3 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] As of March the government will implement an average 15 percent wage increase for public employees. This is provided for in the 1989 national budget despite the fact that the labor organizations demanded a larger wage increase last year.

The wage increase was announced yesterday by Planning Minister Fernando Romero who believes that this will compensate for last year's inflation which according to official sources was 21.5 percent.

The minister said that this increase is larger than the 2.8 percent economic growth rate of 1988, and larger than the expected 3.5 percent growth rate estimated for this year.

Romero said that the wage increase is a result of the "availability of resources in the National Treasury, and of the essential concepts of the national economic plan: fiscal balance and stability."

He said that the ministries are currently preparing the regulations to apply the wage increase.

"The wage measures are austere, but they have been adopted by the government with the belief that if they were slackened further the country could return to hyperinflation with harmful consequences," the minister said.

In the private sector, the wage increase will have to be negotiated between workers and employers. [passage omitted]

The wage increase announced by the government has already met with negative reactions from the COB.

COB Executive Secretary Simon Reyes said that "the salary measure adopted by the government will be rejected by the workers because it does not compensate for their extremely low salaries and the high increase in the cost of living."

Minister on Replacement of Coca in Yungas

PY0903165789 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Mar 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs Minister Jose Guillermo Justiniano has said that it makes no sense to continue with the program of replacing coca plantations in the Yungas Region, La Paz Department because the coca plantations in that region produce only enough for traditional consumption. Justiniano has also announced that the Agroyungas project will be modified.

Justiniano said that the research by the Coca Replacement Department, has revealed that coca plantations occupy between 50,000 and 55,000 hectares of which approximately 40,000 to 45,000 hectares are located in the Chapare region. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Government Resists U.S. Pressure on IDB

PY0903131689 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Mar 89 p 17

[Text] Brasilia—President George Bush's administration is intensifying pressure on the Brazilian Government in an attempt to gain control, with Canada, over the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through the power to veto financial projects. This is the condition that the Bush administration seeks to impose if it is to participate in increasing the IDB capital by approximately $10 billion.

The Foreign Ministry is already taking action to prevent Brazil and other debtors from yielding to the U.S. pressure. The U.S. objective is to increase its decision-making power within the only multilateral organization where Latin American debtors with at least 53.5 percent of the votes maintain control.

Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega yesterday told O GLOBO that Brazil is not yielding to the U.S. pressure. He denied that he will take a Brazilian proposal accepting an increase in the U.S. Government control over the IDB to the meeting of IDB governors to be held in Amsterdam on 18-20 March.

The initiative of increasing the IDB capital and the consequent U.S. veto power has been dragging on for more than 3 years. It was begun by the treasury secretary of the Reagan administration, James Baker III, who is current secretary of state of the Bush administration. According to an assessment by a reliable source of the economic sector, the U.S. Administration's objective is to create another foreign policy branch among Latin American debtors capable of meddling in the economic policies of those countries, in addition to the World Bank, without any negative effect on the United States.

According to the assessment by that source, the greater the degree of fragility of Latin American countries regarding the foreign debt, the greater the U.S. Administration desire to monitor the economy of those countries, over and above that exercized by the IMF.

Social Security Minister Ill; Others Recovering

PY1003035889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Hepatitis will hold back Social Security Minister Jader Barbalho for about 30 days. Social Communications Coordinator (Elio Motta) has reported that during this period, Minister Jader Barbalho will conduct official business from his house in Brasilia.

Yesterday, the social security minister telephoned Agriculture Minister Iris Rezende and asked him to direct the activities of the "moderate" faction at the PMDB convention next weekend.

[Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese at 2255 GMT on 9 March adds: "Social Security Minister Jader Barbalho will be admitted to the Heart Institute in Sao Paulo tonight. Barbalho said he had already suffered hepatitis twice and that his doctors believe he could be suffering another recurrence."]

Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes is feeling well, but the date for his surgery will not be set until next week.

[Begin recording by reporter Walkiria Amor from Sao Paulo] The condition of Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes continues to be stable. He was hospitalized 11 days ago at the Heart Institute of the Clinical Hospital. He is now convalescing from a heart attack.

The management of the hospital has decided to stop issuing daily medical bulletins, because the minister is convalescing normally. Additional information will only be released if there is any change in his condition.

According to his personal aide, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes has already lost 8 of the 20 kg he must lose before undergoing surgery, which will be set within 10 days. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has virtually recovered from the pneumonia he contracted during his visit to Japan. Another X-ray and another blood test confirmed that the pneumonia has virtually disappeared.

According to Itamaraty, despite the fact that he has been under medical treatment for almost 2 weeks, Abreu Sodre has been in daily contact with Brasilia to keep up with the Foreign Ministry activities and even to make important decisions.

Concerning Abreu Sodre's resuming his post, Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira said:

[Begin Nogueira recording] The foreign minister will only resume his post when there are guarantees that he has completely overcome his exhaustion, of which the pneumonia was the main indication.

The prospects are that Minister Abreu Sodre will fully resume his activities next week. [end recording]

Chile

Pinochet To Ask for Cabinet's Resignation

PY1003000989 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Sources close to the government said today that President General Augusto Pinochet next Monday will ask all his ministers and subsecretaries to resign so that he can reorganize his cabinet. Pinochet postponed until Monday the Council of Ministers meeting that was scheduled for today.

On Saturday, President Pinochet will address the nation on the anniversary of the approval of the 1980 Constitution. According to the sources, the Council of Ministers meeting was postponed so that the ceremony on Saturday will not be attended by a Cabinet of resigning ministers.

Reportedly, Pinochet will accept resignations from Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, Government Secretary General Miguel Angel Poduje, and Finance Minister Hernan Buchi.

Nuclear Agreement To Be Signed With PRC

PY0903010589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89

[Relay from La Moneda palace by Pia Diaz]

[Text] Chile and the PRC will sign a cooperation agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

This announcement was made by the president of the China National Nuclear Corporation, Minister Jiang Xinxiong after meeting Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz.

[Begin Jiang Xinxiong recording in Chinese followed by Spanish translation] First, we will conduct a scientific and technological exchange between the two countries. [Jiang Xinxiong speaks in Chinese again, but without following Spanish translation] [end recording]

Later, Victor Aguilera, executive director of the Chilean Energy Commission, said that the PRC is one of the world's five most advanced powers in the nuclear energy field.

[Begin Aguilera recording] As I just told you, the PRC has 300,000 professionals in this field.

We are basically interested in uranium prospecting. They have rock formations similar to ours. They can, therefore, send us professional geologists to help us prospect for uranium here in Chile.

Another field for cooperation is 'in situ' uranium leaching. [end recording]

Aguilera said that the cooperation agreement will be signed on 17 March.

The PRC delegation will return to their country on 19 March, after visiting various nuclear research centers and some regions of the country.

Members Discuss PCCh Congress Policy

PY0903144789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] The proscribed PCCh is about to conclude its 15th National Congress. Some members of this Marxist organization have already reported that the PCCh will maintain its policy of popular rebellion and opposition to the present regime.

Pamela Chiltz, a young PCCh spokesperson, began the news conference by complaining about the media's bad treatment of the PCCh. She said that the Communists are not martians, people from outerspace, fools, or antidemocratic. She said that so far 49 cells have worked in the greater Santiago area and a regional analysis must still be made to arrive to the National Congress. [sentence as heard]

Guillermo Torres, another PCCh spokesperson, supported almost all the extremist proposals made by the United Left. Regarding the PCCh policy of popular rebellion and multiple struggles, Torres said:

[Begin Torres recording] The people have the right and the duty to resort to rebellion or any other method to attain our objectives. That is why we must maintain and promote a policy of opposition to the regime for the next elections. [end recording]

Torres stressed that the PCCh will seek alliances with other opposition sectors to elect real Congress candidates. He said that the current candidates for Congress are not at all satisfactory.

Doctor Mariano Requena went deeper into PCCh's wound: exclusion and isolation from the rest of the opposition. He also spoke of a popular rebellion and, although describing it crudely, of turning the other cheek.

[Begin Requena recording] We will also turn the other cheek in relation to the opposition's attitude of individuality, to the subservient attitude of doing what each one can. Therefore, our second principle is solidarity. [end recording]

In order to twist facts in his favor, Requena distorted reports of child malnutrition and mortality, thus questioning the respectability and seriousness of scientists like, for example, Dr Fernando Monckeberg.

This was not all the Communist had to say. Lawyer Juan Davin, who works in the human rights field, justified the activities of terrorist groups friendly to the PCCh because they act in self-defense.

Davin said that a newspaper had misinterpreted the facts of an alleged militarization of the PCCh. He did not, however, deny this fact.

Architect Miguel Lockner spoke sincerely and said that there have been arguments and struggles within the PCCh over the UP's [Popular Unity] government defeat. The subject was not discussed extensively enough, he said without further explanation. Journalists wondered if the argument was whether the UP was totally defeated or half-defeated, thus allowing room for a possible resurrection. Lockner also said that priests were not observed to be participating in the PCCh congress although it was open to all its members. By this statement he acknowledged that some priests are members of the Marxist organization.

Foreign Minister Asks FRG To Detain Bushman

PY1003003189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has said that Sergio Bushman is a terrorist and that the Chilean Embassy in the FRG has requested his preventive detention pending an extradition request.

Bushman has said in Bonn that the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front is studying the possibility of calling off its armed activity in Chile for a short period to support a leftist coalition.

The foreign minister has said that Bushman is a terrorist and that he must answer to the courts. He pointed out that Bushman was indicted in Chile for his participation in the attack on the president.

Asked why INTERPOL has not tried to get Bushman during his travels in Europe, Errazuriz said that terrorists usually operate from hiding and they could not catch him. Now they have the opportunity and we hope they detain him, the foreign minister said.

Navy Commissions Two New Patrol Boats

PY0603113989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0058 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Santiago, 4 Mar (EFE)—The Chilean Navy has commissioned two new motorboats armed with missiles that will be used to patrol the northern coastal region near the border with Peru.

The two boats, which are called "Iquique" and "Covadonga," will join two similar boats called "Chipana" and "Casma" that patrol off southern Chile.

The two new boats arrived in Chile on 15 February. They were commissioned during a ceremony that took place yesterday in the port of Valparaiso. The ceremony was presided by Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino.

Last Quarter Unemployment at 5.9 Percent

PY0903220989 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Mar 89 pp A-1, 12

[Summary] Eduardo Carrasco, the chief of the labor statistics department of the National Institute of Statistics (INE), yesterday reported a record 5.9-percent unemployment rate for the November 1988-January 1989 quarter.

Consumer Price Index for February Reported

PY0903025089 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Mar 89 pp A-1, 12

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute has reported that the consumer price index for February was 0.1 percent. In January of this year the consumer price index was 1.1 percent. In February 1988 it was 0.4 percent. The accumulated variation in the last 12 months was 12.8 percent.

Colombia

Police To Disperse Liberal Party Demonstrators

PA0903222289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2018 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Mar (EFE)—The Colombian police will disperse a protest against the "dirty war" that the ruling Liberal Party has scheduled for today if it is held in a public place, as was initially planned.

Leaders of the Social Conservative Party [words indistinct] attend the demonstration which, according to Liberal Party spokesmen, will be held "anyway" in the privacy of the party's National Directorate headquarters.

However, no one knows if the estimated 10,000 people who had planned to march through Bogota's streets will be content to have the protest attended only by the executive committees of the organizations involved.

Bogota's city hall has warned that a decree prohibiting demonstrations, marches, and other public gatherings is in effect, and that the protest, scheduled for 1700 (2200 GMT), cannot take place.

A National Police spokesman confirmed to EFE today that if the political parties and labor unions insist on staging the protest in a public place, "they will be dispersed," and that the appropriate security measures have already been taken in downtown Bogota.

Before the ban was announced, former Liberal Colombian Presidents Julio Cesar Turbay; current head of the Liberal Party, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen; and Carlos Lleras Restrepo; as well as former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero, head of the Social Conservative Party, had all confirmed that they would participate in the event.

Spokesmen for the Liberal Party confirmed this afternoon that the demonstration will be held "anyway" in the "enclosed, private headquarters of the Liberal National Directorate" in downtown Bogota, and will be attended by the executive committees of the parties and labor organizations.

Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe, who resigned today to head Senator Ernesto Samper's presidential campaign and who will be one of the main speakers at the demonstration, said: "I do not believe a protest against violence and in support of life can cause unrest or fear."

Ernesto Samper has been hospitalized since 3 March, when he was shot during an attack in which communist leader Jose Antequera was killed.

Arturo Sani, regional leader of the Patriotic Union, was wounded in the arms and legs today in the city of Pereira, 200 km west of Bogota, when unidentified individuals placed a bomb in his automobile.

So far this year, some 500 political assassinations have taken place in Colombia. The victims have mainly been leftists and labor activists.

In 1987, there were 2,978 political assassinations, including 668 victims of 82 mass killings.

'Recent Events' Hasten Serpa Uribe Resignation

PA0903195789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Alberto Echevarria on statements by Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe at Narino Presidential Palace in Bogota on 9 March]

[Text] This morning, Colombian Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe took part in what might be his last official act as attorney general: a high-level meeting of drug-trafficking experts at Narino Presidential Palace. The meeting was attended by the U.S. attorney general, the director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Colombian Justice Minister Guillermo Plaza del Cid, and the directors of the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] and the Antinarcotics Police.

Although there had been speculation regarding Serpa's resignation, recent events hastened it—specifically, the murder of [Patriotic Union Vice President] Jose Antequera and the attempted murder of [Liberal Party presidential hopeful] Ernesto Samper, who 24 hours before had asked Serpa to take charge of his campaign.

[Begin Serpa recording] In addition, there are very pressing matters that I am taking care of as a colleague and as a friend. I am clearly convinced that from the standpoint of political action, it is absolutely possible and convenient to offer my services to the nation. [end recording]

A few minutes after his return to Colombia from the United States, the attorney general expressed regret for not having been more effective in his morality campaign. However, he gave assurances that the country can be saved by its institutions.

[Begin Serpa recording] I had the opportunity to study the behavior of members of these institutions and found evidence indicating that in certain cases they had broken the law, or had acted beyond the scope of their duties, or exceeded the duties established in the Constitution. Whenever I was able to determine and to prove that this [illegible] had happened, I applied the law without hesitation, with the understanding that I was in no way besieging, harming, or causing difficulties to an institution for which I have the highest respect. Instead, I have tried to build trust [in the government's institutions]. [end recording]

ELN Attacks Municipality; 15 Reportedly Killed

PA0903185489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1752 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Report by Jesus Garzon from Tenjo, Cundinamarca]

[Excerpt] An urban cell of the National Liberation Army [ELN] mercilessly attacked Tenjo Muncipality, in northern Cundinamarca Department, early today. The guerrillas shouted harangues and assaulted the offices of Bank of Colombia, from which they stole an undetermined amount of money.

The offices of the municipal palace were also attacked. Several shots hit the walls and desks, and several window panes were damaged. The municipal police command post was occupied by the subversives, and radio communications were disconnected.

Following the attack and after the shooting died down, the guerrillas fled into the woods, where authorities claim 15 were killed.

The peasants were perplexed by the subversives' action. The guerrillas wrote several slogans about the ELN on walls in the town. The Agrarian Fund was also attacked, and an inventory is being taken there at this moment. [passage omitted]

Maoist EPL Willing To Begin Peace Talks

PA0903192389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1757 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Mar (AFP)—The Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) guerrilla group today advised Colombian President Virgilio Barco's administration that it is ready to begin talks to attain national peace.

The EPL, one of the main Colombian subversive groups, sent a message announcing its willingness to begin direct peace talks with the government.

It is the fourth of five subversive groups to announce its decision. The EPL states that it will hold talks not only with the government, but with the labor and political sectors as well.

The EPL believes that fundamental topics during the dialogue must be an end to the dirty war and crimes against political leaders, the dismantling of paramilitary squads, and the arrest of paid assassins.

"We are also interested in solving the people's basic problems through active community participation in the process for national change," the EPL, which is active in the northwestern region of Uraba, asserted.

Other Colombian guerrilla groups, such as the leftist M-19 [19 April Movement], the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the indigenous Quintin Lame Commando Unit announced their intention to seek peace.

Only the pro-Cuban Army of National Liberation (ELN)—which has been active in the border zone with Venezuela, blowing up the most important oil pipeline 54 times last year—has reaffirmed its belligerent stance.

The Barco administration insists that it will engage in dialogue only with subversive groups that lay down their weapons and that demonstrate a sincere willingness to achieve peace.

To date, only the M-19 is holding talks with the government. The FARC and Quintin Lame Commando Unit began unilateral truces in early March.

The EPL document is signed by Antonio Caceres and Beto Martinez, members of the high command. The document, however, does not refer to President Barco's 1 September peace plan.

M-19 Seeks 'Observers' at Peace Talks

PA0903150389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1303 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Madrid, 9 Mar (EFE)—The Colombian guerrilla group 19 April Movement [M-19] is promoting the appointment of a team of international observers to sit at the dialogue among the government, guerrilla forces, and social organizations that will open next week in Colombia.

Heverth Bustamante, who is in charge of M-19's international relations, said during an interview with EFE he had relayed this proposal to government officials in Sweden, France, Belgium, Ireland, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Spain.

In Madrid, socialist sources confirmed a meeting had been held with the M-19 leader and said he had been listened to with interest.

Bustamante said that "it falls on the M-19 as a political-military organization to draw up a medium- and long-term strategy for a negotiated solution," because "Colombia is on the brink of civil war." [passage omitted]

Bustamante said: "We, the guerrilla organizations, particularly the M-19, are the ones propping up the government, because the government does not control the situation, does not decide anything, and does not commit itself to negotiating with concrete measures."

The M-19 leader said one such measure would be to grant a special privilege to the military forces to allow them to provide confidential information on the paramilitary bands, as requested by the Patriotic Union. Bustamante added that "these bands are financed by drug traffickers and the military leadership."

In sum, the M-19 wants a more resolute attitude on the part of the government and hopes "a democratic bloc" will emerge from the "working meeting." This bloc could nominate a single, common candidate for next year's presidential elections.

He warned, however, these elections, which are scheduled for March 1990, "will lack legitimacy if there are no guarantees for all groups."

The guerrilla leader said that "the other alternative is the one advocated by the Colombian Army, the U.S. advisers, and drug-trafficking sectors, which want to militarily end the insurgency over a period of 20 years."

Officers Linked To Massacre Suspended

PA0903220989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2027 GMT 9 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 Mar (DPA)—Until their legal status is resolved, four Colombian Army officers, a Colombian police officer, and a police noncommissioned officer have been suspended as of today due to their ties to the massacre of 45 persons on 11 November 1988 in Segovia, Antioquia Department.

At the request of Medellin Judge Martha Lucia Hurtado, Army General Commander General Nelson Mejia Henao suspended Lieutenant Colonel Alejandro Londono, commander of the "Bombona" infantry battalion, Major Marco Hernando Baez, and Captains Hugo Alberto Valencia and Hugo Henry Borda.

Brigadier General Miguel Antonio Gomez, National Police Force general director, suspended Captain Eliecer Chacon and Second Corporal Gustavio Mejia, the commander and deputy commander of the police garrison in Segovia.

The officers and noncommissioned officer are charged with irregular conduct during the Segovia massacre, in which a paramilitary group stormed the town and murdered 45 people.

The accused are being held at military and police garrisons so the judge may perform her duties without trouble.

Arms, Drug Traffickers Use San Andres Island

PA0703023289 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 89 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] San Andres Administrator Leslie Best Archibold has stated that he discovered two illegal operations whereby arms were brought into San Andres and later shipped out, presumably to the Colombian mainland.

Weapons, he said, are brought to Colombia from Nicaragua through San Andres in lobster shipments, just as you would bring any other merchandise.

Best disclosed this information after an operation to dismantle an international arms trafficking ring that brought 200 AK-47 rifles and 500 Soviet-made "pineapple" grenades into Colombia in September 1988 was thwarted.

Arms trafficking on the island of San Andres has become a daily event, according to Leslie Best, who got involved in two deals in an attempt to discover the destination of the arms from Nicaragua. The easiest way to carry out these deals, he said, is to have a fisherman or lobster buyer trade with the Nicaraguans.

Lately, drugs are also being exchanged for weapons that are apparently brought to unknown destinations in Colombia.

These weapons do not remain in San Andres. The island is only a stopover where they are sold to international traffickers who operate in the Caribbean.

Best says the preferred method is to have the weapons bought from residents of Bluefields and Corn Island, Nicaragua. He said he could not confirm whether or not the Nicaraguan Government is involved, but maintained that "many people from that country are involved."

Best discovered the deal for the 200 AK-47 rifles and 500 Soviet-made grenades during August and September 1988. He later said that authorities in charge of national security and sovereignty are not fulfilling their duties.

Between August and September 1988, Best was informed of the arrival of a shipment of 200 AK-47 rifles and 500 "pineapple" grenades for buyers in Valle del Cauca.

He got involved with certain people in San Andres to find out the final destination of the weapons and what they would be used for in Colombia. He said, however, that he did not receive the full cooperation of the Colombian security authorities on the island, which eventually led to the failure of the operation to dismantle the arms smuggling ring.

"For example," Best said, "the Administrative Department of Security chief—and I am very much ashamed to say this because I regard him very highly—did not cooperate as he should have. As for discovering the people involved in the rifle and grenade deal, Captain Serrano (of the Specific Command) did not help me either."

The AK-47 scandal was discovered because a taxi driver in San Andres reported it to island authorities, including Best. [passage omitted]

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